

Trees in the City

Notice how details, definitions, and quotations build an explanation.

6W2.b “Develop a topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples; include formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful to aid comprehension.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one definition, circle one quotation, and number three concrete details or facts that help explain why city trees matter.

More Than Sidewalk Shade

- ① City trees do more than make sidewalks pleasant. Their leaves cool neighborhoods through shade and transpiration, the release of water vapor from leaves. On a hot day, pavement in direct sun can become much warmer than a shaded patch. A mature tree's broad canopy can cover a bench, a bus stop, or part of a playground. These details show why planting trees is a practical way to make outdoor spaces safer and more comfortable during heat.
- ② Trees also help manage rain. Their roots loosen soil, and fallen leaves can slow water as it reaches the ground. This matters in cities, where roofs and streets send rain quickly into storm drains. The U.S. Forest Service explains that urban forests can reduce stormwater runoff, water that flows over land after rain. In a small planting strip, several young trees and low plants can catch drops before they reach the curb during a steady spring shower.
- ③ Careful planning makes tree planting more useful. City workers must choose species that fit the available space and keep roots away from pipes and sidewalks. At a neighborhood planting day, one volunteer said, “A tree is not a quick fix, but it is a long-term gift.” That comment matches the evidence: trees need years to grow large canopies, yet their shade and rain-catching leaves can help a neighborhood over time. Planting and caring for trees can be part of a city plan for cooler streets and better-managed rainwater.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the passage mean by *transpiration*?

2 Name two places from paragraph 1 where a tree's canopy can provide useful shade.

3 What fact from the U.S. Forest Service helps explain why trees are useful during rain?

4 How does the volunteer's quotation support the passage's main idea? Use one other detail from paragraph 3 in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write six to eight sentences under an underlined heading explaining why your school could benefit from a native-plant garden. Include a definition and at least two relevant facts or concrete details.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one definition, circle one quotation, and number three concrete details or facts that help explain why city trees matter. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the passage mean by <i>transpiration</i> ?	Transpiration is the release of water vapor from leaves.
2	Name two places from paragraph 1 where a tree's canopy can provide useful shade.	Any two: a bench, a bus stop, or part of a playground.
3	What fact from the U.S. Forest Service helps explain why trees are useful during rain?	Urban forests can reduce stormwater runoff, which is water that flows over land after rain.
4	How does the volunteer's quotation support the passage's main idea? Use one other detail from paragraph 3 in your answer.	The quotation shows that trees provide benefits over a long time. Paragraph 3 explains that trees need years to grow large canopies, which later provide shade and help catch rain.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Native Plants at School A native plant is a plant that grows naturally in a region. Our school could create a small native-plant garden beside the fence. Plants chosen for our local region can provide nectar for butterflies and bees. The deep roots of many native grasses help hold soil in place during rain. Students could measure a six-by-eight-foot bed, label the plants, and record visiting insects. This garden would give students a living place to study local ecosystems.

Accept accurate restatements and any two correct locations in question 2. For the writing task, accept a focused explanation with an underlined heading, a clear definition, and at least two relevant facts or concrete details.