

The Tree Plan

Study how an informational model connects a topic, evidence, and solutions.

6W2 “Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states each paragraph's main idea. Circle the details that explain or support it, so you can see how the writer organizes information.

How City Trees Help

- ① On hot summer days, a row of street trees can make a neighborhood feel cooler. Trees shade sidewalks, buildings, and parked cars, so these surfaces absorb less sunlight. Their leaves also release water vapor, which can cool nearby air. This natural cooling matters most in places with many roads and roofs, because dark pavement and roofing hold heat. Cities often call these hotter places heat islands. Planting and protecting trees is one way communities can reduce that effect.
- ② However, not every tree provides the same benefits in every location. A young tree gives little shade at first, while a mature tree has a wider canopy. Species also differ in how much water they need and how well they handle compacted soil, road salt, or drought. For these reasons, city planners study a site before choosing trees. They may select several species instead of one kind, which lowers the chance that a single disease will harm every tree on a block.
- ③ Trees need care after planting, so a tree program is more than a single digging day. Workers and volunteers can water young trees during dry weeks, add mulch around trunks, and check for damage. Residents can help by keeping bicycles and lawn equipment away from bark, which protects the living layer beneath it. When cities combine careful tree choices with long-term care, they gain cooler public spaces and healthier trees. The example shows how clear explanations connect a topic, its causes, and practical solutions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which sentence in paragraph 1 states the paragraph's main idea? Copy the sentence.

2 What two details in paragraph 1 explain why heat islands can form?

3 How does paragraph 2 help the reader understand why city planners choose certain trees? Use two details from the paragraph.

4 Why does the writer include examples of work done by workers, volunteers, and residents in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 70-90 word informational paragraph about how a school garden can support learning. Begin with a clear topic sentence, include at least three accurate details, explain one connection between details, and end with a concluding sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states each paragraph's main idea. Circle the details that explain or support it, so you can see how the writer organizes information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence in paragraph 1 states the paragraph's main idea? Copy the sentence.	On hot summer days, a row of street trees can make a neighborhood feel cooler.
2	What two details in paragraph 1 explain why heat islands can form?	Places with many roads and roofs can become hotter because dark pavement and roofing hold heat.
3	How does paragraph 2 help the reader understand why city planners choose certain trees? Use two details from the paragraph.	It explains that young and mature trees provide different amounts of shade, and that species differ in water needs and ability to handle conditions such as road salt or drought. Therefore, planners study the site before choosing trees.
4	Why does the writer include examples of work done by workers, volunteers, and residents in paragraph 3?	The examples show that trees need long-term care after planting and explain practical ways people can keep trees healthy.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school garden can help students learn while improving the school grounds. Students can measure plant growth in math and record observations in science notebooks. Flowers in the garden may provide nectar for pollinating insects. Vegetables can show how food grows from seeds to harvest. Garden jobs, such as watering and weeding, teach students that living things need regular care. By connecting lessons with real plants, a garden makes learning more concrete.

Accept equivalent wording when students identify the stated main ideas, relevant supporting details, and the author's organization. For the paragraph, look for accurate information, a clear topic sentence, connected details, and a concluding sentence within the stated word range.