

City Heat Choices

Trace how an informational text moves from a problem to a response.

7R5 "In literary texts, analyze how structure, including genre-specific features, contributes to the development of themes and central ideas. (RL) In informational texts, analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each bold heading, number the paragraphs 1 through 3, and write P for problem, C for causes, or S for solutions beside each paragraph to show how the organization develops the central idea.

Why Cities Stay Hot

- ① **Hotter Streets** On a sunny summer afternoon, a city block can feel much hotter than a nearby park. This difference is called an urban heat island. Asphalt roads, dark roofs, and brick walls absorb sunlight and release heat slowly. In crowded neighborhoods, these surfaces cover much of the ground. The result can be warmer daytime temperatures and less relief at night. Older adults, young children, and people who work outdoors can face greater health risks during heat waves.
- ② **Why Surfaces Matter** Trees and soil change the pattern. Leaves shade sidewalks, while water from soil and plants evaporates, which cools surrounding air. By contrast, pavement prevents rainwater from soaking into the ground, so less water is available to evaporate. Building height and narrow streets can also trap warmth by limiting wind. Heat is not caused by the sun alone. Materials, vegetation, and street design affect how a neighborhood holds heat. These effects are strongest where hard surfaces replace open ground.
- ③ **Cooling a Block** Cities can reduce heat with practical choices. Planting trees and protecting existing tree cover add shade. Light-colored roofs reflect more sunlight than dark roofs, and green roofs use plants to cool roof surfaces. Permeable pavement lets more rain soak into soil, supporting evaporation and reducing runoff. These solutions work best when planners focus on neighborhoods with few trees and high temperatures. Together, these choices show that city design can both worsen heat and help lower it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do the heading **Hotter Streets** and the first paragraph introduce the topic of the text?

2 What organizing pattern does the author use across all three paragraphs? Describe the job of each paragraph.

3 Why does the author explain heat-holding surfaces before giving cooling solutions?

4 What central idea does the final paragraph help develop? Use one detail from that paragraph in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a local environmental issue. Write an informational mini-text of about 70 words in three labeled sections: the problem, one cause, and a response. Make the sections work together to develop one central idea.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each bold heading, number the paragraphs 1 through 3, and write P for problem, C for causes, or S for solutions beside each paragraph to show how the organization develops the central idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the heading Hotter Streets and the first paragraph introduce the topic of the text?	They introduce urban heat islands as a city problem and describe how hotter streets can affect people.
2	What organizing pattern does the author use across all three paragraphs? Describe the job of each paragraph.	The text uses a problem, causes, solutions pattern. Paragraph 1 presents urban heat, paragraph 2 explains causes, and paragraph 3 gives ways to reduce it.
3	Why does the author explain heat-holding surfaces before giving cooling solutions?	Explaining the causes first helps readers understand why trees, lighter roofs, and permeable pavement can help.
4	What central idea does the final paragraph help develop? Use one detail from that paragraph in your answer.	City design can help lower urban heat. For example, planting trees adds shade, and light-colored roofs reflect more sunlight.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Problem Plastic wrappers sometimes blow across the school field after lunch. They can clog drains and may harm animals that eat them. **One Cause** Open bins fill quickly, and wind carries light trash away. A dropped lid can be hard to notice on busy days. **A Response** Covered bins near the field and a two-minute cleanup walk could reduce litter. These steps would help keep the field and nearby drain clear.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the overall problem, causes, solutions structure. For the open response, look for three labeled sections that logically build one central idea rather than three unrelated facts.