

City Trees at Work

See how relevant details build an informative explanation.

7W2.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 the definition and the quotation. Circle four concrete details or examples that help explain why city trees matter.

Why Cities Need Trees

- ① City trees do more than make sidewalks look pleasant. An urban tree is a tree growing in a town or city, often near buildings, streets, and people. Its leaves cool nearby air by shading pavement, which can become much hotter than grass on a sunny day. Trees also catch some rain on their leaves and branches. This slows water before it reaches storm drains, helping reduce puddles and flooded streets during heavy rain after storms.
- ② Tree roots add another benefit. As roots spread through soil, they make small spaces where water can soak in instead of rushing across hard surfaces. A U.S. Forest Service report states, "Urban forests can improve air quality by removing pollutants from the atmosphere." This information matters because many city blocks have wide roads and roofs but little open soil. Planting and protecting trees can give neighborhoods cooler walking routes and cleaner air for residents nearby.
- ③ Not every tree survives easily in a city. A young tree may face compacted soil, limited root space, road salt, or damage from construction. For example, a tree planted in a narrow sidewalk strip may not have enough soil for its roots to grow well. Cities can respond by choosing tree species that fit the space and by giving new trees water during dry weeks. These details show why urban tree care requires planning, not simply planting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What definition does the writer give for an urban tree?

2 Which two details explain how trees can reduce flooding after heavy rain?

3 How does the U.S. Forest Service quotation support the writer's point about city trees?

4 Why does the example of a tree in a narrow sidewalk strip belong in this explanation?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write an 80-110-word informative paragraph, including your heading, about a helpful place or system at your school or in your community. Give it a clear heading, define the topic, include at least three concrete relevant details or examples, and end by explaining why it matters.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the definition and the quotation. Circle four concrete details or examples 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 definition does the writer give for an urban tree?	An urban tree is a tree growing in a town or city, often near buildings, streets, and people.
2	Which two details explain how trees can reduce flooding after heavy rain?	Trees catch rain on their leaves and branches, and they slow water before it reaches storm drains.
3	How does the U.S. Forest Service quotation support the writer's point about city trees?	It supports the point that urban trees improve air quality by removing pollutants from the atmosphere.
4	Why does the example of a tree in a narrow sidewalk strip belong in this explanation?	It gives a concrete example of a city tree challenge, limited soil and root space, and shows why planning is needed.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The School Library A school library is a shared space where students can read, research, and borrow books. Librarians organize books by subject, so a student studying volcanoes can locate science sources quickly. Computers provide access to databases, and quiet tables give students room to take notes. The library also offers novels, graphic novels, and audiobooks, which lets readers choose formats that fit their needs. By supplying materials and a place to work, the library helps students build knowledge independently.

Accept equivalent details that accurately identify relevant information from the passage. For the paragraph, look for a definition, at least three specific details or examples, an informative heading, and an explanation of the topic's importance.