Cool Sidewalk Questions

Use several sources to investigate a neighborhood question.

5.6.R.1 "Students will conduct research to answer questions, including self-generated questions, and to build knowledge, using multiple sources (e.g., visual and text reference sources, electronic resources, and/or interviews)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Maya's first research question, number the three sources in the order she uses them, and circle one fact she learns from each source. These marks will help you track how her sources build an answer.

A Cooler Walk Home

1 On a hot afternoon, Maya noticed that the sidewalk under a tree felt cooler than the bare sidewalk beside it. She wondered, "How can trees cool a sidewalk, and what would they need to grow along our street?" Instead of trusting one quick answer, she looked for sources that could explain both the cooling and the work of keeping street trees healthy.

2 First, Maya read a science book about plants. It explained that a tree's leaves block some sunlight, making shade. Leaves also release water vapor, which can help cool nearby air. Next, she checked a guide on her city's parks website. The guide said that trees planted near streets need enough space for roots and should be chosen to fit local growing conditions.

3 Finally, Maya interviewed a tree care worker. The worker said that young street trees need water while their roots become established. Maya now had an answer from more than one kind of source: a book explained the cooling, while a city guide and an interview helped her think about planting and care. She still wanted to ask, "Where on our street could a tree grow safely?"

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source helps answer how trees cool a sidewalk? Give one fact from that source.

2. Maya wants to know what kind of tree might grow well along her street. Which source should she use, and what does it tell her to consider?

3. Which source adds information about caring for a young street tree? What does Maya learn from it?

4. Why does Maya need more than the science book to answer both parts of her first question?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new question about improving an outdoor space that the passage does not answer. Name two different kinds of sources you would use, and explain what you would look for in each one.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.6.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Maya's first research question, number the three sources in the order she uses them, and circle one fact she learns from each source. These marks will help you track how her sources build an answer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source helps answer how trees cool a sidewalk? Give one fact from that source.	**The science book explains that leaves make shade or release water vapor that can cool nearby air.**
2	Maya wants to know what kind of tree might grow well along her street. Which source should she use, and what does it tell her to consider?	**She should use the city parks website guide. It says to choose trees that fit local growing conditions and have enough root space.**
3	Which source adds information about caring for a young street tree? What does Maya learn from it?	**The interview with the tree care worker adds that young street trees need water while their roots become established.**
4	Why does Maya need more than the science book to answer both parts of her first question?	**The book explains how trees cool sidewalks, but the city guide and interview add information about the space and care street trees need.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question is: Which flowers would help butterflies near our school? I would read a local plant guide to find flowers that grow in our area. I would interview a gardener to learn which of those flowers bloom during the school year.

Accept answers that correctly connect each source to information stated in the passage. For Your Turn, look for a new, unanswered question and two different source types with a clear purpose for each.