Trees at Work

Study how a model text groups facts from several sources.

5.6.W.3 "Students will write informative texts independently for short timeframes (e.g., a single sitting or a day or two) that organize related information logically and convey key details, quotations..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first sentence of each paragraph to find its main idea. Circle the named source in each paragraph, then number two facts that support that paragraph's first sentence.

What City Trees Do

1. Trees can cool a city block on a hot day. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) explains that leafy branches shade pavement and buildings. Sunlight does not heat shaded surfaces as quickly as surfaces in full sun. Trees also release water from their leaves, which helps cool the nearby air. On a walk home, a shaded sidewalk may feel more comfortable than a bare one.

2. Trees also help a neighborhood handle rain. According to the U.S. Forest Service, leaves and branches catch some rainfall before it reaches the ground. Tree roots help water soak into the soil instead of rushing over pavement. This matters in places where streets and parking lots leave little open ground. A tree cannot stop every puddle, but it can be part of a plan to manage rainwater.

3. Trees give city animals places to find food and shelter. The National Wildlife Federation explains that trees can offer food and places for wildlife to raise young. Birds may build nests among branches, while some insects feed on leaves. A street tree is not a whole forest, yet it can add useful habitat to a crowded neighborhood. Even one tree can offer a nesting spot near homes and stores.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source supports the first paragraph's main idea? Give one fact from that source that fits the paragraph.

2. Choose two facts in the second paragraph that belong together in a section about rain. Explain why they fit together.

3. What is the third paragraph's main idea? Name its source and give one supporting detail.

4. Write one heading for the whole passage. Explain how facts from two different sources fit under it.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph for a school newsletter proposing a tree beside the playground. State your main idea, use one relevant fact from each of two named sources in the passage, and end by explaining why those benefits matter at school.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the first sentence of each paragraph to find its main idea. Circle the named source in each paragraph, then number two facts that support that paragraph's first sentence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source supports the first paragraph's main idea? Give one fact from that source that fits the paragraph.	**The EPA supports the cooling paragraph. It explains that leafy branches shade pavement and buildings.**
2	Choose two facts in the second paragraph that belong together in a section about rain. Explain why they fit together.	**Branches catch some rainfall, and roots help water soak into soil. Both facts show ways trees help manage rainwater.**
3	What is the third paragraph's main idea? Name its source and give one supporting detail.	**Trees give city animals food and shelter. The National Wildlife Federation supports this idea with the detail that trees offer food and places to raise young.**
4	Write one heading for the whole passage. Explain how facts from two different sources fit under it.	**Heading: How City Trees Help Neighborhoods. The EPA describes cooling from shade, and the U.S. Forest Service describes how trees help manage rain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should plant a tree beside the playground to help with heat and rain. The EPA explains that leafy branches shade pavement and buildings, so a tree could shade the ground near the play area. The U.S. Forest Service says tree roots help water soak into soil instead of rushing over pavement. Together, these benefits could make the space more comfortable and help manage rainwater at school.

Accept other accurate supporting facts and headings that cover the passage's benefits. For the paragraph, look for a clear proposal, relevant facts credited to two different named sources, and an ending connected to the school.