Trees That Work

Read, mark, and summarize the benefits and needs of city trees.

7.2.R.1 "Students will summarize alphabetic and/or multimodal texts, including main idea and key details, to demonstrate comprehension within and between texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that best states its main point, then circle two details that support it. Use your marks to plan a summary of the whole passage.

More Than Shade

1 On a hot afternoon, the blacktop outside a city school can feel like a stove. Students waiting for buses crowd beneath the only tree. Its leaves block sunlight, so the pavement below heats up less than pavement in the open. Trees also release water vapor through their leaves, which can cool nearby air. For this reason, some schools are planting trees beside playgrounds and sidewalks. A tree cannot stop a heat wave, but a row of healthy trees can make a familiar walk more comfortable.

2 The same trees can help when a storm arrives. Leaves catch some rain before it hits the ground, and roots help the soil take in water. Less water may rush across pavement toward a storm drain all at once. In one neighborhood, residents planted trees along a street that often collected puddles after heavy rain. The trees did not make flooding impossible; a strong downpour can still overwhelm drains. Yet their roots and the soil around them give some rain another place to go.

3 Planting is only the beginning. Young street trees need watering until their roots spread, and their trunks need space to grow. A tree planted under power lines may have to be cut back often, while one squeezed into a tiny patch of soil may struggle to survive. Before planting, neighbors can choose suitable species and locations, then make a plan for care. When communities do that work, trees are more likely to last long enough to shade walkers and slow runoff during storms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Summarize the first paragraph in one sentence. Include one detail that explains how trees make a hot place more comfortable.

2. What is the main point of the second paragraph? Name two details that support it.

3. How do the first two paragraphs work together to show why a community might plant trees?

4. What important point does the third paragraph add? Give two details that develop that point.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65- to 85-word summary of the whole passage in your own words. Include its overall main idea and at least one key detail from each paragraph, but leave out minor examples.

ANSWER KEY # Trees That Work

GRADE 7 · 7.2.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that best states its main point, then circle two details that support it. Use your marks to plan a summary of the whole passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Summarize the first paragraph in one sentence. Include one detail that explains how trees make a hot place more comfortable.	**Trees can make hot school grounds more comfortable because their leaves shade pavement and help keep it from heating up as much.**
2	What is the main point of the second paragraph? Name two details that support it.	**Trees can help manage rainwater. Leaves catch some rain, and roots help soil take in water.**
3	How do the first two paragraphs work together to show why a community might plant trees?	**The first explains how trees help during hot weather, while the second explains how they help during storms.**
4	What important point does the third paragraph add? Give two details that develop that point.	**Trees need suitable planting spots and care to survive. Young trees need watering, and trees in tiny patches of soil may struggle.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Trees can make city streets and school grounds more comfortable and better prepared for rain, but they need thoughtful care. Their leaves shade pavement, and water released through leaves can cool nearby air. During storms, leaves catch some rain while roots help soil absorb water, reducing some runoff. These benefits have limits: trees cannot stop heat waves or prevent every flood. Choosing good planting spots and caring for young trees helps them survive long enough to make a difference.

Accept accurate paraphrases that identify each paragraph's main point and connect it to relevant details. For the final summary, look for the overall idea, a key detail from each paragraph, and no claim that trees eliminate heat or flooding.