Who Can Cool Down?

Weigh evidence about responses to a heat wave

WG.P.1.1.C "Gather and evaluate information regarding complex problems, assessing individual and collective actions taken to address them."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each individual action and circle each collective action. Number three pieces of evidence that help you judge how well the actions addressed the heat risk.

A Heat Wave in Arroyo Bend

1. In the fictional city of Arroyo Bend, a July heat wave kept nighttime temperatures high for five days. Many apartments lacked air conditioning, and outdoor workers had little choice about their shifts. The city opened two cooling centers at public libraries, while volunteers checked on neighbors who lived alone. A city report counted 320 visits to the centers, but it did not count unique visitors: one person could appear several times. The number shows that people used the centers, not that every person at risk could reach them. Evaluating the response requires asking who was helped and who remained exposed.

2. A bus schedule showed that the last bus from the west side left at 5 p.m., two hours before the centers closed. A resident interview described an older neighbor who stayed home because the walk to the stop was too long. That interview reveals a possible barrier, but one account cannot show how common the problem was. Clinic records showed more heat-related visits during the heat wave than the previous week; they did not identify which patients had tried a cooling center. Together, the sources suggest a gap in access, but they cannot prove that limited bus service caused the clinic visits.

3. One resident delivered water to three neighbors, an action that addressed immediate needs but depended on her time and supplies. The city later added an evening shuttle from the west side, a collective step that could reach more people. To judge its effect, investigators could compare shuttle ridership and center visits before and after the change, then ask west-side residents whether the shuttle met their needs. Even a rise in center visits would not prove fewer people became ill: weather severity and other factors also matter. A fair assessment combines counts with residents' accounts and notes what each source cannot establish.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the city's count of 320 cooling-center visits show, and what important question can it not answer?

2. How do the bus schedule and the resident interview work together to assess access to the centers? Give one limit of this evidence.

3. Compare the resident's water delivery with the city's evening shuttle. What could each action do, and what limit or uncertainty remains?

4. Suppose center visits rose after the shuttle began. What additional evidence would help you judge the shuttle, and why would the rise alone not prove that fewer people became ill?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

After a storm cuts power to an apartment building for two days, residents share portable battery packs, and the city opens a charging station across town. Write one paragraph naming two sources you would use to assess both actions, explaining a limit of each source, and recommending which action to prioritize for residents with limited transportation.

Who Can Cool Down?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each individual action and circle each collective action. Number three pieces of evidence that help you judge how well the actions addressed the heat risk. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the city's count of 320 cooling-center visits show, and what important question can it not answer?	**It shows that people used the centers. It cannot show how many different people visited or whether everyone at risk could reach a center.**
2	How do the bus schedule and the resident interview work together to assess access to the centers? Give one limit of this evidence.	**The schedule shows that west-side bus service ended before the centers closed, and the interview describes a resident who could not manage the walk to the stop. One interview cannot show how common that barrier was.**
3	Compare the resident's water delivery with the city's evening shuttle. What could each action do, and what limit or uncertainty remains?	**Water delivery met three neighbors' immediate needs but depended on one person's time and supplies. The shuttle could help more west-side residents reach a center, but its effect would need to be checked.**
4	Suppose center visits rose after the shuttle began. What additional evidence would help you judge the shuttle, and why would the rise alone not prove that fewer people became ill?	**Shuttle ridership and west-side residents' accounts would help show whether people used the shuttle and whether it met their needs. More center visits alone would not prove fewer illnesses because weather severity and other factors could affect health.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would check city sign-in records to see how many visits the charging station received, but repeat visits might be counted more than once. I would also interview building residents about shared battery packs and travel barriers, though a few interviews might miss other experiences. For residents with limited transportation, I would prioritize sharing battery packs in the building because they could use them without traveling across town. I would also find out whether enough charged packs were available to meet their needs.

Accept other relevant sources if students explain what each can and cannot establish. Recommendations may favor either action if the reasoning addresses residents' transportation needs.