

Gardens Above Cities

Discuss and evaluate how an informational article presents its ideas.

5.T.T.2.a "Discuss and evaluate techniques used to present and design expository texts, including multiple main ideas, facts, and key details used to support the main idea. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each section's main idea and circle a supporting fact. Discuss with a partner how the headings, grouped facts and examples help readers. Judge which design choice is most useful and support your opinion with a specific example.

Rooftop Gardens

Space above the street

In cities with little open ground, a suitable roof can provide space for plants. A green roof has a layer of vegetation and growing material on top of a building. Before installation, experts must check whether the structure can carry the weight, including water held after rain.

Heat and rain

Green roofs can help with heat and rainwater. Plants shade the roof, and water released into the air helps cool it. Growing material also holds some rainwater, reducing the amount that runs off immediately. Results depend on conditions such as the amount of rain; a green roof does not prevent all runoff.

Planning and care

Green roofs also require planning and care. A simple roof with hardy, low-growing plants may need less maintenance than a rooftop garden with larger plants and paths for visitors. Tasks may include watering, removing weeds and replacing plants. The kind of garden affects both the work and the structural support it needs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name a main idea from each of the three sections.

2 Which details explain how green roofs affect heat and rainwater?

3 How useful is the comparison between a simple planted roof and a garden with paths? Explain your judgment.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Evaluate this article for a fifth-grade reader new to green roofs. Discuss two presentation techniques with a partner. Then explain one effective choice and one improvement that would help readers understand a main idea and its supporting details. Do not invent facts to fill gaps.

1. Discuss the design

Compare the usefulness of the headings and grouped examples. Ask your partner for a reason. Record your own judgment and a point your partner raised, with text evidence.

2. Evaluate and recommend

Explain an effective technique with a specific example and its benefit to the reader. Propose one change, describe where it belongs, and explain which main idea it would clarify.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each section's main idea and circle a supporting fact. Discuss with a partner how the headings, grouped facts and examples help readers. Judge which design choice is most useful and support your opinion with a specific example. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name a main idea from each of the three sections.	Suitable roofs can provide growing space; green roofs can reduce heat and runoff; roof gardens require planning and care.
2	Which details explain how green roofs affect heat and rainwater?	Plant shade and water released into the air help cool the roof. Growing material holds some rainwater, reducing immediate runoff.
3	How useful is the comparison between a simple planted roof and a garden with paths? Explain your judgment.	It is useful because it gives concrete examples showing why maintenance and structural needs vary. Accept other judgments supported by what the comparison does or does not explain.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**Possible discussion note**

I found the headings useful because "Heat and rain" tells me where to find two connected benefits. My partner said the maintenance examples make an unfamiliar topic concrete. We agreed that the section groups its examples clearly.

Evaluation

The headings help a new reader find information quickly. For example, "Planning and care" accurately introduces the section about different gardens and maintenance tasks. The examples of watering and weed removal support the main idea that care is needed. I would add a labeled diagram beside "Heat and rain," showing rain entering the growing material and some water running off. This would help readers visualize the explanation without suggesting that a roof holds every drop.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Assess actual discussion and evaluation: an effectiveness judgment, evidence from the article, and a reason connected to reader understanding. A proposed diagram is an improvement, not an existing figure. Accept other well-supported changes or critiques; no invented measurements are needed. Different headings, grouping, examples and qualifications can all be evaluated. Background: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Using Green Roofs to Reduce Heat Islands and Soak Up the Rain: Green Roofs.