Trees Change Cities

Study how a model article introduces and organizes connected information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2a "Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that previews the article, circle each heading, and draw arrows between the causes and effects in the second and third paragraphs to see how the information is organized.

City Trees at Work

Overview

A city tree does more than decorate a sidewalk. It can make a neighborhood cooler, manage rainwater, and support living things. This article explains how trees affect temperature, water, and wildlife in busy places. Each benefit begins with a simple cause: leaves, roots, or branches change the space around them. Looking at these effects helps city planners and residents decide where new trees could be most useful during hot, wet, or crowded days in their community.

Cooling Shade

On a sunny day, pavement absorbs energy from sunlight and becomes hot. A tree's leaves block some sunlight before it reaches the ground. The shaded pavement usually stays cooler than pavement in direct sun, and people walking nearby feel less heat. This is a cause-and-effect relationship: leaf cover reduces the sunlight reaching a surface, which can lower its temperature. Trees do not eliminate heat waves, but shade can make outdoor spaces more comfortable.

Water and Wildlife

Roots create spaces in soil that let some rainwater soak into the ground. Compared with bare, packed soil, soil near a healthy tree may absorb more water. This can reduce runoff, the water that flows over land after rain. Branches also offer places for birds to rest or build nests, while flowers and fruit can provide food for insects and other animals. For these reasons, one planted tree can serve several needs at once.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence clearly previews the three topics the article will explain?

2. How do the three headings organize the information for the reader?

3. What comparison does the last paragraph make, and what idea does it support?

4. State one cause-and-effect chain from the “Cooling Shade” section.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90-110-word informational mini-article about a school item or place that improves learning, such as a library, water fountain, or garden. Give it a title and two headings, preview two ideas in the first sentence, include one cause-and-effect explanation and one comparison, and add a labeled two-column table with two rows. Write the full article on separate paper; use the table here to plan or record its supporting information.

JOB	RESULT

Trees Change Cities

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that previews the article, circle each heading, and draw arrows between the causes and effects in the second and third paragraphs to see how the information is organized. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence clearly previews the three topics the article will explain?	**"This article explains how trees affect temperature, water, and wildlife in busy places."**
2	How do the three headings organize the information for the reader?	**They divide the article into an overview, cooling shade, and water and wildlife benefits.**
3	What comparison does the last paragraph make, and what idea does it support?	**It compares bare, packed soil with soil near a healthy tree. It supports the idea that soil near a tree may absorb more water.**
4	State one cause-and-effect chain from the "Cooling Shade" section.	**Leaves block sunlight, so less sunlight reaches pavement, which can lower the pavement's temperature.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

School Garden

Learning Outdoors

A school garden helps students learn science and build responsibility. Students can observe plant growth and care for shared tools. When students water seedlings regularly, the plants are less likely to dry out, so the garden can stay healthy. Compared with reading only about plants, measuring leaves and recording changes gives students direct evidence. It also creates a shared space for careful teamwork. Teachers can connect these observations to class science lessons.

Garden Jobs

The table shows two jobs that help the garden.

JOB	RESULT
Water seedlings	Plants receive needed water
Record growth	Classes can compare changes

Accept answers that accurately identify the preview, headings, comparison, and cause-and-effect relationship in the passage. For the mini-article, accept varied accurate topics when the response includes all required organizational features and a table that supports the explanation.