Trees That Cool

Study how one model text builds an idea across three paragraphs.

6.T.SS.1.d "Craft multi-paragraph texts using a coherent structure to organize ideas with an introduction; supporting facts, reasons, details, descriptions, and/or events; and a conclusion. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in paragraph 1 that states the central claim. Number the supporting details in paragraph 2, then circle the sentence in paragraph 3 that gives the final conclusion.

Why City Trees Matter

1 On a hot afternoon, a tree-lined block can feel much cooler than a bare parking lot. Trees do more than make a neighborhood look pleasant. Their leaves shade sidewalks, homes, and playgrounds from direct sunlight. Trees also release water vapor through their leaves, which can help cool the air nearby. For these reasons, planting and caring for city trees is one practical way communities can make outdoor spaces safer and more comfortable during warm weather.

2 Shade can lower the temperature of surfaces that soak up sunlight. Dark pavement and rooftops absorb energy and become very hot, then warm the air around them. A tree canopy blocks some sunlight before it reaches those surfaces. In addition, shaded homes may need less air conditioning, which can reduce electricity use. Young trees need water and protection, but as they grow, their branches can provide wider shade. Choosing suitable species and giving them room for roots helps trees survive in crowded city spaces.

3 City trees cannot solve every problem caused by extreme heat, and they must be planned carefully. Roots can damage sidewalks if a tree is planted in a space that is too small, and some trees require more water than others. Still, the benefits are substantial when communities select appropriate trees and maintain them. By adding shade, cooling nearby air, and improving public spaces, healthy urban trees help residents handle hot days. A thoughtful planting plan can turn an exposed street into a more livable place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What central claim does the first paragraph make?

2. Which sentence in paragraph 2 gives a supporting detail about how trees cool an area?

3. How does paragraph 2 develop the central claim from paragraph 1?

4. How does paragraph 3 work as a conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-paragraph informational text of 120 to 160 words explaining one change that would improve your school or neighborhood. Introduce your main point in paragraph 1, give at least two supporting details in paragraph 2, and end with a conclusion in paragraph 3.

ANSWER KEY

Trees That Cool

GRADE 6 · 6.T.SS.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in paragraph 1 that states the central claim. Number the supporting details in paragraph 2, then circle the sentence in paragraph 3 that gives the final conclusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What central claim does the first paragraph make?	**Planting and caring for city trees can make outdoor spaces safer and more comfortable in warm weather.**
2	Which sentence in paragraph 2 gives a supporting detail about how trees cool an area?	**A tree canopy blocks some sunlight before it reaches those surfaces.**
3	How does paragraph 2 develop the central claim from paragraph 1?	**It explains how shade cools surfaces and air, adds a benefit for homes, and describes care that helps trees survive.**
4	How does paragraph 3 work as a conclusion?	**It acknowledges limits, restates the benefits of well-planned trees, and ends with the idea that planting can improve a street.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install a water-bottle filling station near the gym. Students often finish practice thirsty, and the nearest fountain can create a line. A filling station would give students a quick place to refill reusable bottles and would make the hallway more useful.

First, reusable bottles can be filled many times, so students would not need to buy or throw away as many single-use bottles. Second, a station near the gym would save time between classes and practices. The school could place a sign nearby that explains how to keep the area clean. These details show that the station would support both convenience and less waste.

A filling station would be a small change with daily benefits. It could help students stay prepared for activity while reducing trash from disposable bottles. Because it meets a clear need near the gym, the school should consider adding one.

Accept equivalent statements of the central claim and reasonable explanations of each paragraph's role when they are supported by the text. For the writing task, look for three clear paragraphs with an introduction, connected supporting details, and a conclusion that wraps up the main point.