Trees on Our Block

Use several sources to investigate one question

5.W.7 "Conduct short research projects that use multiple sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each source name, then underline one fact from each source that helps answer the class's question.

Should Our Block Plant Trees?

1. Our class asked whether street trees would help a sunny block. We checked more than one source instead of stopping at the first fact. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) explains that trees cool streets by shading pavement and releasing water through their leaves. Shade matters on a block where people wait for the bus. This source helped us investigate heat, one part of our question.

2. Next, we investigated what happens during rain. The USDA Forest Service explains that leaves and branches catch some rain before it hits the ground. Tree roots also help soil soak up water. That means street trees can reduce some runoff, or water flowing over pavement, but they cannot stop every flood. This source added a second reason to consider trees, beyond keeping the bus stop cooler.

3. Benefits are not the whole story. The Arbor Day Foundation advises choosing a tree that fits its planting space and checking for nearby power lines. A tree squeezed into a tiny space may struggle to grow. Putting these sources together, our answer is not simply "plant trees everywhere." Street trees could help with heat and rain, but our block needs suitable places for them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source helps investigate whether trees could make the bus stop cooler? What does it explain?

2. What different part of the class's question does the USDA Forest Service help investigate? Give one fact from that source.

3. How does the Arbor Day Foundation's information change a plan based only on the first two sources?

4. Which two sources give different reasons to plant trees? Explain the reason each gives.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Should your class suggest planting trees beside the school playground? Write four or five sentences that make a recommendation, use facts from at least two named sources in the passage, cover two different aspects, and explain one condition that could affect your recommendation.

ANSWER KEY

Trees on Our Block

GRADE 5 · 5.W.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each source name, then underline one fact from each source that helps answer the class's question. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source helps investigate whether trees could make the bus stop cooler? What does it explain?	**The EPA explains that trees cool streets by shading pavement and releasing water through their leaves.**
2	What different part of the class's question does the USDA Forest Service help investigate? Give one fact from that source.	**It helps investigate rain. Leaves and branches catch some rain, or roots help soil soak up water.**
3	How does the Arbor Day Foundation's information change a plan based only on the first two sources?	**The first two sources show benefits, but the Arbor Day Foundation shows that the class must check planting space and nearby power lines before choosing trees.**
4	Which two sources give different reasons to plant trees? Explain the reason each gives.	**The EPA explains that trees cool streets. The USDA Forest Service explains that trees catch rain and help soil soak up water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend planting trees beside the school playground if there is enough room for them to grow. The EPA explains that trees shade pavement and release water through their leaves, which could make the play area cooler. The USDA Forest Service says branches catch some rain, and roots help soil soak up water. That could mean less water running across the playground after a storm. Before planting, our class should follow the Arbor Day Foundation's advice to choose trees that fit the space and check for power lines.

Accept accurate paraphrases of source facts. For Part 3, look for a recommendation supported by at least two named sources, two distinct aspects, and a relevant condition.