Courtyard Word Clues

Use context to understand and apply precise words.

7.L.6 "Acquire and use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases. Research words and gather vocabulary knowledge. Apply knowledge of vocabulary to reading, writing, speaking, and listening."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle canopy, impervious, baseline, and mitigate in the passage. Underline a nearby clue that helps you work out each word's meaning.

Why Is One Courtyard Cooler?

1 At noon, Maya stepped from the library onto her school's two courtyards. One had a canopy of overlapping tree branches and leaves; the other was open to the sun. Both spaces had benches, but the open courtyard felt much hotter. Maya wondered whether shade explained the difference. Her science club decided to investigate instead of trusting a quick impression. They planned to measure air temperature at the same height in both courtyards, at the same time, using the same type of thermometer.

2 The club also noticed a difference underfoot. Rainwater sank into the soil beneath the trees, but it collected in shallow puddles on the open courtyard's impervious asphalt. On sunny afternoons, the pavement felt warm through Maya's shoes. The club knew that ground surfaces might affect the results, so they avoided claiming shade was the only difference. They labeled their first set of temperature readings the baseline and saved those numbers for comparison with later readings. They measured on several clear days and recorded the time and weather.

3 At the times they measured, the shaded courtyard was usually cooler, but the club could not prove that trees alone caused the difference. In a report to the principal, Maya proposed adding trees near the open benches to mitigate the heat. If the school planted trees, students waiting there might eventually have a cooler place to sit. Maya suggested taking new readings after the trees grew and comparing them with the baseline. The weather notes would help the club spot days when clouds, rather than new shade, changed the readings.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does canopy refer to in the passage, and how did it matter to Maya's investigation?

2. Use the rainwater comparison to explain what impervious means when describing the asphalt.

3. Why did the club save a baseline instead of keeping only its later readings?

4. In Maya's proposal, what does mitigate mean, and what change did she suggest to do it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different outdoor place that gets too hot or too wet. In three sentences, suggest an improvement using two vocabulary words from the passage, and include details that show what both words mean.

ANSWER KEY

Courtyard Word Clues

GRADE 7 · 7.L.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle canopy, impervious, baseline, and mitigate in the passage. Underline a nearby clue that helps you work out each word's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does canopy refer to in the passage, and how did it matter to Maya's investigation?	**Canopy refers to the layer of tree branches and leaves overhead. It shaded one courtyard, which Maya compared with the sunny courtyard.**
2	Use the rainwater comparison to explain what impervious means when describing the asphalt.	**Impervious means water does not pass through easily. Rainwater formed puddles on the asphalt instead of sinking into it as it did in the soil.**
3	Why did the club save a baseline instead of keeping only its later readings?	**The baseline was their first set of readings. They needed it to compare temperatures before and after any changes.**
4	In Maya's proposal, what does mitigate mean, and what change did she suggest to do it?	**Mitigate means reduce or lessen. Maya suggested adding trees near the open benches to reduce the heat there.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the public library entrance, staff could record a baseline of puddle depth before changing the walkway. They could replace some impervious pavement, where rain pools instead of soaking through, with a planted strip. After another storm, they could compare the new puddle depth with the first measurement.

Accept accurate meanings supported by passage clues. For Part 3, look for three original sentences that use two passage words correctly and make both meanings clear.