Where Heat Builds

Find the central ideas and key details for an objective summary.

8.RI.2.b "Provide an objective summary of the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in each paragraph that best states its main point, then circle one detail that could support that point in a brief, objective summary.

Cooling a Hot City

1 On a summer afternoon, a dark city street can feel much hotter than a nearby park. Asphalt and rooftops absorb sunlight and release heat slowly, while trees provide shade and cool the air as water evaporates from their leaves. Buildings can also block breezes. Together, these conditions create an urban heat island, an area warmer than surrounding places. Heat islands matter most during heat waves, when high temperatures can raise the risk of illness. The problem does not affect every block equally because streets differ in pavement, buildings, and tree cover.

2 Cities use several methods to reduce heat at street level. Planting trees can shade sidewalks and bus stops, but young trees need water and time before their canopies spread. Some cities install lighter-colored roofing materials that reflect more sunlight than dark roofs. These roofs can help keep buildings cooler, though they do not shade people waiting outside. Replacing some pavement with planted areas can also reduce surfaces that store heat. Each method targets a different part of the problem, so cities may combine them rather than choose only one.

3 Choosing where to act requires more than finding the hottest spot on a map. City planners can compare temperature readings with information about where people walk, wait for buses, or lack air conditioning. A shaded playground may matter more to residents than an empty parking lot with the same temperature. Planners must also consider who will maintain trees and planted areas after installation. Tracking temperatures before and after changes can show whether a project is working. The goal is not to erase summer heat, but to reduce dangerous exposure where people need relief most.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In one sentence, summarize the cause and effect explained in paragraph 1 without including its opening example.

2. Summarize paragraph 2 in one sentence that includes at least two methods and one limitation.

3. In one sentence, summarize how planners decide where to act and how they check results in paragraph 3.

4. Which belongs in a brief objective summary of the whole passage, the empty parking lot example or the need to target places where people face heat? Explain in one sentence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence objective summary of the entire passage. Include what causes urban heat islands, how cities can reduce heat, and how planners choose and assess projects; leave out examples and personal opinions.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that best states its main point, then circle one detail that could support that point in a brief, objective summary. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In one sentence, summarize the cause and effect explained in paragraph 1 without including its opening example.	**Heat-absorbing surfaces, limited shade, and blocked breezes make city areas warmer than surrounding places, raising the risk of illness during heat waves.**
2	Summarize paragraph 2 in one sentence that includes at least two methods and one limitation.	**Trees and reflective roofs can help reduce city heat, but trees take time to grow and reflective roofs do not shade people outdoors.**
3	In one sentence, summarize how planners decide where to act and how they check results in paragraph 3.	**Planners consider where people face heat and compare temperatures before and after a project to check its effects.**
4	Which belongs in a brief objective summary of the whole passage, the empty parking lot example or the need to target places where people face heat? Explain in one sentence.	**The need to target places where people face heat belongs because it is a central idea, while the parking lot is one example.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Heat-absorbing surfaces, limited shade, and blocked breezes can make city areas hotter than surrounding places, increasing health risks during heat waves. Cities can reduce heat by planting trees, using reflective roofs, and replacing pavement with planted areas, although each approach has limits. Planners can focus on where people face heat, plan for maintenance, and compare temperatures before and after projects to check their effects.

Accept accurate paraphrases that preserve the passage's central ideas without adding opinions. For the marking job, accept a sentence that states each paragraph's main point and a relevant supporting detail.