Shade Plan Debate

Trace a claim from introduction to evidence and limits.

6.RI.1 "Key Ideas and Confirming Details Summarize texts, including their main idea(s) and how they are developed with specific details. Describe how a key individual, event or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in historical..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the planners' main claim, circle details that support it, and put an X beside the claim the passage does not support. These marks will help you trace the argument.

Trees Against Heat

1. On hot summer days, city blocks with little shade can feel much warmer than nearby parks. Urban planners are responding by planting trees along streets, near bus stops, and in schoolyards. Their goal is not simply to make neighborhoods look nicer. Tree canopies cast shade on pavement and buildings, which can lower surface and air temperatures. For this reason, many planners argue that planting and caring for trees is a practical way to help cities handle extreme heat.

2. Scientists have found several ways that trees cool an area. Leaves block sunlight before it heats dark asphalt and building walls. Dark surfaces absorb energy and can become much hotter in direct sun than in shade. Trees also release water vapor from their leaves, a process called transpiration. As the water changes from liquid to vapor, it uses heat from the surrounding air. These details explain why one mature tree can affect more than its own trunk-sized space: its branches and leaves create a wider patch of shade and cooling.

3. Planting is only the first step. Young street trees need regular water, especially during dry weather, and crews may need to protect them from damage by vehicles or construction. A city that plants thousands of saplings but does not budget for care may lose many of them before they grow large enough to provide broad shade. Some people claim that any tree will cool every street equally. The earlier evidence does not support that claim, because cooling depends on the size and spread of a tree's canopy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a two-sentence summary of the passage. State the main idea, then explain how paragraphs 2 and 3 develop it.

2. How does the passage introduce, illustrate, and elaborate on the idea that trees can help cities handle heat?

3. What two scientific details support the planners' claim that trees can help cool cities?

4. Which claim does the passage say is not supported? Explain why it is not supported.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence recommendation to a city council about where or how to plant trees. State a claim, use two details from the passage as evidence or reasons, and explain one condition the city must consider.

ANSWER KEY

Shade Plan Debate

GRADE 6 · 6.RI.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the planners' main claim, circle details that support it, and put an X beside the claim the passage does not support. These marks will help you trace the argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a two-sentence summary of the passage. State the main idea, then explain how paragraphs 2 and 3 develop it.	**The main idea is that cities should plant and care for trees to lessen extreme heat. Paragraph 2 explains how trees cool areas, while paragraph 3 explains that trees need care to grow large enough to provide broad shade.**
2	How does the passage introduce, illustrate, and elaborate on the idea that trees can help cities handle heat?	**Paragraph 1 introduces the argument that planting and caring for trees can help cities handle heat. Paragraph 2 illustrates it with shade and transpiration, and paragraph 3 elaborates by explaining why watering and protection are needed.**
3	What two scientific details support the planners' claim that trees can help cool cities?	**Leaves block sunlight from heating pavement and building walls. Trees release water vapor through transpiration, which uses heat from the surrounding air.**
4	Which claim does the passage say is not supported? Explain why it is not supported.	**The unsupported claim is that any tree will cool every street equally. The passage explains that cooling depends on the size and spread of a tree's canopy.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city should plant and care for shade trees near bus stops and schoolyards first. Their canopies block sunlight from pavement and buildings, and leaves cool the air through transpiration. The city should budget for regular watering because young trees may not survive long enough to grow broad canopies without care.

Accept accurate summaries that state the central argument and explain how the later paragraphs provide scientific support and a condition for success. For the open task, accept varied recommendations if they include a clear claim, two accurate passage-based supports, and a relevant condition.