Shade Changes Streets

Study how an informational writer uses cause and effect.

6.W.1 "Modes and Purposes for Writing Write narratives to entertain, to share a personal experience, or to alter an existing story that uses narrative techniques to develop the characters, event(s), and experience(s)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that explains a cause or an effect. Circle the words or phrases that connect the cause to the effect.

Cooler City Blocks

1 On a hot afternoon, a city block can feel like an oven. Dark pavement absorbs sunlight and releases heat slowly, while buildings can block cooling breezes. Street trees change that experience. Their leaves create shade over sidewalks, benches, and bus stops. A shaded surface stays cooler than one in direct sun. Trees also make a block more inviting, giving people a place to walk, wait, and talk outside. During summer, this difference can matter most to people who spend time outdoors.

2 Trees cool the air in more than one way. First, shade keeps sunlight from heating pavement as much. In addition, trees release water vapor through tiny openings in their leaves. As the water changes to vapor, it uses heat energy from the surrounding air. This process, called transpiration, can help cool the area near the tree. Because several trees work together, a tree-lined street may feel cooler than a nearby street with little shade at noon.

3 However, planting a tree is not an instant solution. Young trees have small canopies, so they provide less shade than mature trees. They also need water and care, especially during dry weather. Still, planning can increase their benefits. For example, planting trees near sunny sidewalks and bus stops places shade where people need it. Choosing species that fit the local climate and available space can help trees live longer. In this way, careful planting connects a city's design to cooler outdoor spaces.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the passage's central idea about street trees?

2. What text structure is used most in the second paragraph? Give two cause-and-effect examples from that paragraph.

3. How do the words "First," "In addition," and "Because" help the second paragraph stay connected?

4. Why is this passage expository rather than narrative or persuasive? Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 100 to 130 word expository response in two paragraphs explaining how preparing a backpack the night before can affect the next school morning. Use a cause-and-effect structure, include at least three connecting words or phrases, and give specific details.

ANSWER KEY

Shade Changes Streets

GRADE 6 · 6.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that explains a cause or an effect. Circle the words or phrases that connect the cause to the effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the passage's central idea about street trees?	**Street trees can make city blocks cooler and more comfortable, especially when they are carefully planted and cared for.**
2	What text structure is used most in the second paragraph? Give two cause-and-effect examples from that paragraph.	**Cause and effect. Shade causes pavement to heat less, and water changing to vapor uses heat energy and can cool air near the tree.**
3	How do the words "First," "In addition," and "Because" help the second paragraph stay connected?	**They show the order of ideas, add another cooling method, and connect several trees working together to the effect of a cooler-feeling street.**
4	Why is this passage expository rather than narrative or persuasive? Use two details from the passage.	**It explains information about how trees cool city areas. It describes shade and transpiration and explains effects such as cooler pavement and cooler air.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Preparing a backpack the night before can make a school morning calmer. First, a student can check the schedule and place each needed book, paper, and device in the bag. This step prevents a rushed search when it is time to leave. In addition, packing a lunch or filling a water bottle ahead of time reduces the number of morning jobs. The results continue at school. Because the student has the correct materials, class can begin with fewer delays. A completed homework assignment is less likely to be forgotten at home. As a result, the student can focus on learning instead of worrying about missing supplies. This small routine turns preparation into a smoother start.

Accept equivalent statements of the central idea and any accurately cited cause-effect relationships or connecting words from the passage. For Part 3, accept responses of 100 to 130 words in two paragraphs that explain a clear cause-effect chain with specific details and at least three transitions.