

Play It Cool



Many U.S. schools are redesigning playgrounds to help students beat the heat.

LEXILE: 990L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, SL.6-8.1, W.6-8.1

ENGAGE THE READER

Start the lesson by discussing the outdoor spaces around your school. Is there a spot where students wait for dismissal? A basketball court or play area? Talk about what students like or dislike about this space. If a space like this doesn't exist at your school, invite students to share what kind of outdoor space they'd like. Then tell them they'll be reading about schools that have redesigned their outdoor spaces.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- How does asphalt affect schools and communities? Why do you think it is a common outdoor surface?
- What sources were included in the article? How does each add to the story?
- What design features were used in the new playgrounds? What are the benefits of these features?

EXTEND LEARNING

Tell students they'll be doing a temperature investigation around the school. As a class, choose three or four outdoor spots to investigate. Talk about what each spot is used for (e.g., lunch, dismissal, recreation). Have students list these spots in a notebook. Then provide students with a thermometer to record the temperature of these areas. Take students outside. They should take notes on what each area is like and record the natural and man-made elements, as well as the temperature. Students should measure the temperature on several occasions.

After the investigation, put students in small groups. Have them compare their notes. Then ask them to work together to come up with recommendations for one or more of the outdoor spaces. They can write a persuasive letter to the school administration explaining their findings and what can be done to improve the school.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

- 1. A** (RI.2) **2. D** (RI.1) **3. B** (RI.3) **4. B** (RI.8) **5. C** (RI.4)
6. C (RI.6) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.8)

Name _____ **Date** _____

Use this week's cover story, "Play It Cool," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p>1. Which would be the best alternate title for this article?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. "Cooler Playgrounds" B. "Pathways to Change" C. "Hotter Neighborhoods" D. "Fresh Look" 	<p>4. Why was Camila Pena included in the article?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. She loves recess. B. She helped redesign her school's playground. C. She runs the HeatReady program. D. She explains why asphalt makes playgrounds hotter.
<p>2. Which is not true about school playgrounds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. During extreme heat, spending time on them can be dangerous. B. Upgraded playgrounds help students connect with nature. C. Trees, shade sails, and updated equipment can help make play spaces cooler. D. Many playgrounds are being redesigned with asphalt. 	<p>5. What is the definition of a "heat island," according to context clues from the article?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. big cities with older school buildings B. asphalt playgrounds C. an area that soaks up heat from the sun and radiates it to surrounding areas D. a place with little shade
<p>3. Why did Arizona's Paideia Academy team up with the HeatReady Program at ASU?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. to plant trees in the community B. to redesign a playground that is more heat-safe C. to save the basketball court D. to teach kids safety tips for extreme heat 	<p>6. Jennifer Vanos's quote at the end of the article tells readers that she thinks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. teachers should speak up to make changes at their school. B. playgrounds are too hot. C. kids are great for leading change when they speak up. D. environmental work is no place for children to be involved.

7. What would you include in a heat-safe playground at your school? Explain your choices.
