The Garden Choice

See how limited resources lead people to choose.

SS.3.E.1 “Beginning Economics”

NAME ______________________ DATE ____________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that tell what the club chose, and circle the words that tell what it gave up. These details show how scarcity leads to a choice and an opportunity cost.

A Choice at the Garden Sale

1 The third-grade garden club had six tomato plants ready for a small sale. The club wanted to buy paint for signs, seed packets for fall, and a watering can. Its money would not pay for all three. This is scarcity: there were limited dollars but many wants. The students had to make an economic choice about how to spend the money.

2 After talking, the club chose the watering can. Plants needed water each week, and the old can leaked. The students gave up buying paint for signs right now. The paint was the opportunity cost, or the next best thing they did not choose. A choice always means giving up something else when resources are limited.

3 The club still wanted seeds, so members looked for a way to get them. Maya traded extra tomatoes with a neighbor who had seed packets. Both people agreed because each received something wanted. Trade can help people when they have different goods. The club used its money for the watering can and used trade to meet another want.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What scarce resource kept the club from buying all three things it wanted?

2. What did the club choose to buy, and why?

3. What was the club's opportunity cost?

4. How did trade help the club get seed packets?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a choice you could make with limited money. Tell two things you want, what you choose, and what your opportunity cost is.

The Garden Choice

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that tell what the club chose, and circle the words that tell what it gave up. These details show how scarcity leads to a choice and an opportunity cost. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What scarce resource kept the club from buying all three things it wanted?	**The club had limited money, or dollars.**
2	What did the club choose to buy, and why?	**The club chose a watering can because the plants needed water and the old can leaked.**
3	What was the club's opportunity cost?	**The opportunity cost was buying paint for signs.**
4	How did trade help the club get seed packets?	**Maya traded extra tomatoes with a neighbor who had seed packets.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I have $5, but a notebook costs $4 and a snack costs $3. I buy the notebook, so the snack is my opportunity cost.

Accept answers that identify a limited resource, a choice, and the next best item given up. For the open response, accept any realistic example that correctly names an opportunity cost.