

Desert Needs Network

Trace how people use local resources to meet basic needs.

SS.8.G.5.1 "Describe human dependence on the physical environment and natural resources to satisfy basic needs in local environments in the United States."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each natural resource named in the passage. Circle each basic need that people meet by using a resource, then number the actions that help protect a resource.

Living With a Desert Water Supply

- ① In Tucson, Arizona, people live in the Sonoran Desert, where rain is limited and summers are hot. Families need water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and flushing toilets. Much of Tucson's water comes from groundwater pumped from wells. The city also receives Colorado River water through the Central Arizona Project. Homes, schools, and businesses depend on pipes, pumps, and storage tanks to move and save this resource. Without a reliable water supply, people could not meet several daily basic needs.
- ② Desert heat creates another need: energy for cooling. Electricity runs air conditioners, refrigerators, lights, and water pumps. In Tucson, much electricity is generated from natural gas and solar power. Natural gas is a fuel taken from underground deposits. Solar panels use sunlight, which is plentiful in southern Arizona. Residents depend on these energy sources to keep indoor spaces safer during extreme heat and to preserve food. Using less electricity during peak summer hours can reduce demand on power systems.
- ③ Water use can also affect the desert environment. When groundwater is pumped faster than it is replaced, water levels can fall. The city has promoted low-flow fixtures, repaired leaks, and offered rebates for desert-adapted landscaping. These choices help conserve water while residents still meet household needs. Nearby farms depend on soil, water, and sunlight to grow crops, including lettuce and cotton. Food from farms helps supply local stores, but irrigation must be managed carefully so the region can support people and ecosystems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two sources of water that Tucson uses.

2 How do pipes, pumps, and storage tanks help people meet a basic need in Tucson?

3 Choose one energy source in the passage. What need does it help Tucson residents meet?

4 What can happen when groundwater is pumped faster than it is replaced? Name one action Tucson has taken to conserve water.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a local environment somewhere in the United States. Write three sentences explaining a natural resource people depend on for a basic need, how people use it, and one action that can protect it from harm.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each natural resource named in the passage. Circle each basic need that people meet by using a resource, then number the actions that help protect a resource. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two sources of water that Tucson uses.	Groundwater pumped from wells and Colorado River water delivered through the Central Arizona Project.
2	How do pipes, pumps, and storage tanks help people meet a basic need in Tucson?	They move and store water so people can use it for needs such as drinking, cooking, bathing, and flushing toilets.
3	Choose one energy source in the passage. What need does it help Tucson residents meet?	Answers may name natural gas or sunlight used for solar power. These sources provide electricity for cooling indoor spaces, preserving food, running lights, or pumping water.
4	What can happen when groundwater is pumped faster than it is replaced? Name one action Tucson has taken to conserve water.	Groundwater levels can fall. Tucson has promoted low-flow fixtures, repaired leaks, or offered rebates for desert-adapted landscaping.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In coastal Maine, residents depend on the Atlantic Ocean for fish that provide food and jobs. Harbors, boats, and ice houses help fishers bring catches to local markets. Catch limits and protected areas can help prevent overfishing while people continue to use the ocean resource.

Accept accurate examples from any United States local environment that connect a natural resource to a basic need. The response should explain human use and a realistic action that reduces environmental harm or protects the resource.