

Water Under Pressure

Trace how water problems affect daily life and economic activity.

SS7G2.a "Explain how water pollution and unequal access to water impacts irrigation, trade, industry, and drinking water."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each water problem in the passage, then underline the effect it causes for irrigation, trade, industry, or drinking water. Number each circled problem and its underlined effect with the same number.

Water Connects Communities

- ① Across Africa, farmers depend on rivers, lakes, and groundwater to grow food. Yet water is not equally available. In dry northern Kenya, a long drought can lower river flow and leave small farms without enough water to irrigate crops. When harvests shrink, families have less food to sell. A farming cooperative may also spend hours or money bringing water from a distant borehole. Unequal access means that a nearby large farm with pumps may keep producing while smaller farms cannot.
- ② Water pollution can create another obstacle. Near a city, untreated sewage, factory waste, or oil spilled from a boat can carry germs or harmful chemicals into a river. Polluted water can damage crops, make fish unsafe to eat, and force a food-processing plant to pay for cleaning water. If a factory slows or closes, workers and suppliers lose income. Traders may have fewer vegetables, fish, or manufactured goods to carry to markets or ports, so trade can decline.
- ③ Drinking water is affected most directly. People who must use a polluted river may get sick, especially when water is not treated before use. Other communities may have safe wells or pipes, while nearby settlements walk far or wait in line at a shared tap. Time spent collecting water can limit school, paid work, and business activity. Protecting water sources, treating wastewater, repairing pipes, and sharing water fairly can support healthier people, reliable farming, and stronger local economies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can unequal access to water cause two farms to have different irrigation results?

2 Name two ways polluted water can affect industry.

3 Explain how water pollution can lead to less trade.

4 What are two effects on people when safe drinking water is unequal or polluted?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about a made-up community in Africa. Describe one water problem, explain its effects on irrigation, industry, trade, and drinking water, and name one practical response.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each water problem in the passage, then underline the effect it causes for irrigation, trade, industry, or drinking water. Number each circled problem and its underlined effect with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can unequal access to water cause two farms to have different irrigation results?	A large farm with pumps may keep irrigating, while smaller farms without enough water cannot irrigate their crops.
2	Name two ways polluted water can affect industry.	A food-processing plant may have to pay to clean water, and a factory may slow or close, causing workers and suppliers to lose income.
3	Explain how water pollution can lead to less trade.	Pollution can damage crops or make fish unsafe. Traders then have fewer vegetables, fish, or manufactured goods to take to markets or ports, so trade can decline.
4	What are two effects on people when safe drinking water is unequal or polluted?	People using polluted water may get sick. People without nearby safe water may walk far or wait in line, which can limit school, work, and business activity.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A town's river is polluted by untreated wastewater. Farmers cannot safely irrigate vegetables, so they harvest less to sell. A juice factory must pay to clean its water, and traders have fewer goods to take to market. Families need safe drinking water, so treating wastewater and repairing a shared pipe would protect health.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that accurately connect water pollution or unequal access to the named activities. For Part 3, the response should include all four areas and a realistic action such as treatment, protection of sources, pipe repair, or fair sharing.