

Water Under Pressure

Trace how access and pollution shape daily water use.

SS7G6.a "Explain how water pollution and the unequal access to water impacts irrigation and drinking water."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each complete clause that gives a cause or condition, and circle each complete clause that gives an effect on irrigation or drinking water. This will help you trace how water problems lead to results.

Water Choices in Southwest Asia

- ① Across Southwest Asia, dry climates make rivers, springs, and groundwater especially important. Water is not shared evenly. Some communities lie near large rivers or have costly systems that pump groundwater. Others depend on rain, small wells, or water delivered by trucks. When a farm has reliable water, growers can irrigate crops during dry months. A nearby village with limited water may receive only enough for basic household needs. Unequal access can therefore limit where and how much food farmers can grow.
- ② In some places, untreated sewage, factory waste, fertilizer runoff, or oil can enter rivers and groundwater. Polluted water can carry germs or harmful chemicals. Farmers who use it for irrigation may damage soil or leave contaminants on crops. Families who drink it may become sick. Safe treatment can remove some contaminants, but treatment costs money and needs equipment. Without it, communities may have less safe drinking water and farmers may have fewer usable water sources during droughts.
- ③ These problems can combine. Consider two towns during a drought. Town A has pipes connected to a treated river supply, so families can receive drinking water and farmers can plan irrigation. Town B relies on a shallow well. A leaking sewage pipe pollutes the well, and the town cannot afford a treatment system. Town B must avoid using that water for drinking and may have less water available for crops. Repairing the pipe and treating the water would protect health and increase the usable supply.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can unequal access to water affect a farm's irrigation and crop production?

2 Name two sources of water pollution from the passage, then state one way polluted water can affect people or farms.

3 Why might a community still lack safe drinking water even if treatment can remove contaminants?

4 Explain how the polluted well affects both drinking water and irrigation in Town B.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two sentences about a different Southwest Asia community with unequal access to water and water pollution. Explain one effect on drinking water and one effect on irrigation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each complete clause that gives a cause or condition, and circle each complete clause that gives an effect on irrigation or drinking water. This will help you trace how water problems lead to results. 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 affect a farm's irrigation and crop production?	A farm with reliable water can irrigate during dry months. A farm with limited water may be unable to grow as much food or may be limited in where it can grow crops.
2	Name two sources of water pollution from the passage, then state one way polluted water can affect people or farms.	Sources include untreated sewage, factory waste, fertilizer runoff, and oil. Polluted water can make people sick, damage soil, or leave contaminants on crops.
3	Why might a community still lack safe drinking water even if treatment can remove contaminants?	Treatment costs money and requires equipment, so some communities cannot afford or operate a treatment system.
4	Explain how the polluted well affects both drinking water and irrigation in Town B.	Town B must avoid drinking water from the polluted well because it may be unsafe. The town also has less water available for crops, so irrigation is limited.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A city has a treatment plant, but a nearby farming village depends on a canal polluted by sewage. Village families need another source of drinking water, and farmers have less usable water to irrigate crops.

Accept any accurate two-sentence scenario that includes unequal access and pollution, plus a clear effect on both drinking water and irrigation. Answers may use different realistic water sources or pollutants.