# Room to Grow

How neighbors choose when resources are limited

**3.E.1** "Give examples from the local community that illustrate scarcity of resources and explain how scarcity requires people to make choices and give up other options (i.e., opportunity cost)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** In each paragraph, underline what the neighbors do not have enough of. Circle what they choose to do, and draw a box around what they give up.

### Choices at Maple Street Garden

1. On Saturday, families met at the Maple Street community garden. Six groups wanted to grow plants, but the garden had only four open beds. Neighbors could use the beds for vegetables or flowers. They chose to plant beans in all four beds so more families could take home food. This meant there was no bed left for the bright flowers some neighbors had hoped to grow.

2. By July, the garden faced a new problem. The rain barrel held only enough water for one row of plants that week. The neighbors had to choose between watering the tomatoes and watering the pumpkin vines. They chose the tomatoes because the fruit was nearly ready to pick. The pumpkin vines did not get water from the barrel, so some pumpkins stayed small.

3. In the fall, the neighbors had just one hour to work before the garden closed. They wanted to fix a loose gate and paint a welcome sign. With so little time, they chose to fix the gate so it could shut safely. They could not paint the sign that day. At their next meeting, the neighbors talked about asking more helpers to come.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did having only four open beds shape what the neighbors planted? What did they give up?

2. Why did the neighbors choose to water the tomatoes? What did they give up by making that choice?

3. What did the neighbors choose to do with their one hour in the fall? What could they not do that day?

4. If the neighbors had painted the sign instead of fixing the gate, what would they have given up that day? Why?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a place in your community other than the garden. Write three sentences about a resource there that is limited, a choice people could make, and another option they would give up.

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## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline what the neighbors do not have enough of. Circle what they choose to do, and draw a box around what they give up. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did having only four open beds shape what the neighbors planted? What did they give up? | **They used all four beds for beans and gave up growing flowers.** |
| 2 | Why did the neighbors choose to water the tomatoes? What did they give up by making that choice? | **The tomatoes were nearly ready to pick. The neighbors gave up watering the pumpkin vines with the barrel water.** |
| 3 | What did the neighbors choose to do with their one hour in the fall? What could they not do that day? | **They fixed the loose gate and could not paint the welcome sign that day.** |
| 4 | If the neighbors had painted the sign instead of fixing the gate, what would they have given up that day? Why? | **They would have given up fixing the gate that day because they had only one hour to work.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both a reading club and a chess club want the town library's only meeting room on Saturday. The librarian gives the room to the reading club. The chess club gives up meeting in that room that day.

For the marking job, accept the limited beds, barrel water, and work time as resources. For Your Turn, accept a plausible local example that names a limited resource, a choice, and the option given up.