Visitors and Tradeoffs

Tourism's effects on island reefs and mountain trails

GHW.11.1 "Analyze the impact of tourism on the physical and human environments of selected world regions. Predict the environmental and economic impacts of changes in tourism in these regions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two effects on land or water and circle two effects on jobs or income. In the final paragraph, number two proposed tourism changes and give each change's predicted effects the same number.

Reefs, Trails, and Tourism

1. At a guesthouse on a Maldivian island, a visitor can pay a local boat operator to reach a coral reef. Tourism supports boat crews, hotel workers, and shops that sell food. Yet reef visits also change the physical environment. An anchor dropped on coral can break colonies that took years to grow. Some resorts need large amounts of fresh water, which is scarce on small islands, and create waste that must be managed. When visitors follow marked boat routes and use mooring buoys instead of anchors, reefs face less direct damage. Protecting reefs also protects a reason people travel there.

2. In Nepal's Khumbu region, trekkers travel through mountain villages on the way toward Everest Base Camp. They pay guides and porters and buy meals and rooms from local families. These earnings can help households, but tourist seasons can also make income uneven across the year. More trekkers mean more litter and greater demand for fuel and water along busy trails. Carrying out trash and using refill stations can reduce waste, although those services cost money to run. If trails and nearby streams become polluted, residents bear the burden, and the area may become less appealing to future visitors.

3. Imagine that the Maldives limits daily reef trips and the Khumbu region adds a fee to fund trail cleanup. Fewer reef trips could reduce contact with coral, but boat crews might earn less at first. If healthier reefs draw visitors over time, local businesses could recover some income. In Khumbu, a cleanup fee might pay workers to collect trash and protect streams. A fee that raises the cost of trekking, however, could discourage some visitors and reduce sales at lodges. Neither policy guarantees a result: damage depends on visitor behavior, while earnings depend on how many travelers come and where they spend money.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can one reef trip in the Maldives bring both an economic benefit and a physical-environment cost?

2. Explain how an increase in trekkers could affect both village households and the physical environment in Khumbu.

3. If the Maldives limits daily reef trips, what might happen to coral and to boat crews' earnings at first?

4. Why might Khumbu's proposed cleanup fee both protect streams and reduce lodge sales?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Suppose visitors to the Maldives begin staying longer at guesthouses, but the daily number of reef trips stays the same. In four sentences, predict an effect on island water or waste and an effect on local earnings, explain why both could happen, and identify one uncertainty.

ANSWER KEY

Visitors and Tradeoffs

HIGH SCHOOL · GHW.11.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two effects on land or water and circle two effects on jobs or income. In the final paragraph, number two proposed tourism changes and give each change's predicted effects the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can one reef trip in the Maldives bring both an economic benefit and a physical-environment cost?	**The trip pays a local boat operator, but an anchor dropped on coral can break it.**
2	Explain how an increase in trekkers could affect both village households and the physical environment in Khumbu.	**More trekkers could buy rooms and meals from local families, while also producing more litter and increasing demand for water and fuel.**
3	If the Maldives limits daily reef trips, what might happen to coral and to boat crews' earnings at first?	**Less contact with coral could reduce damage, while boat crews might initially earn less.**
4	Why might Khumbu's proposed cleanup fee both protect streams and reduce lodge sales?	**The fee could pay workers to collect trash, but the higher cost of trekking could discourage some visitors from buying lodge rooms.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Longer stays could increase freshwater use and waste because guests need water and supplies each day. Guesthouses and food shops could earn more as travelers buy more nights and meals. Keeping reef trips steady may prevent additional contact with coral, but it does not remove pressure on island water. The size of these effects depends on whether total guest nights actually rise.

Accept other passage-supported cause-and-effect explanations. For Part 3, look for a plausible physical effect, an economic effect, reasoning for both, and a relevant uncertainty in four sentences.