Brookside Takes Action

Organize ideas for protecting water and air

E.5.10.1 "Collect and organize scientific ideas that individuals and communities can use to conserve Earth's natural resources and systems (e.g., implementing watershed management practices to conserve water resources..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action people take to conserve natural resources, and circle who takes it. Write W beside actions that protect water and A beside actions that protect air.

From Streets to Creek

1. After a storm, water rushes across the streets of Brookside and into storm drains. The drains empty into Willow Creek, which supplies water to nearby wetlands. Rain can carry lawn fertilizer into the creek. Too many nutrients from fertilizer can cause algae to grow quickly, leaving less oxygen for fish. Families can use only the fertilizer their lawns need and keep it off sidewalks.

2. The town has another way to protect the creek. Workers can build rain gardens beside parking lots. These shallow planted spaces collect runoff, giving water time to soak into the ground instead of rushing into storm drains. Outside town, a farmer plants new seeds without plowing the fields and leaves old crop stems on the ground. This no-till method helps keep soil from washing into the creek.

3. Brookside also works to protect its air. Cars release gases that can pollute the air and add heat-trapping gases to the atmosphere. Some students walk to school with adults instead of riding in cars. The town adds safe crossing signs along the route so more families can choose to walk. Each choice can reduce the number of car trips and the pollution they cause.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What can families do to keep fertilizer out of Willow Creek, and why does that help fish?

2. Which town action protects creek water near parking lots? Explain how it works.

3. How does the farmer's action protect both soil and creek water?

4. Name one action students take and one action the town takes to protect air. How do the actions work together?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

At a school, worksheets go in the trash after only one side is used, and plastic drink bottles fill trash cans. Suggest one action a student can take and one action the school can take. For each, name a natural resource it protects and explain how.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · E.5.10.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each action people take to conserve natural resources, and circle who takes it. Write W beside actions that protect water and A beside actions that protect air. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can families do to keep fertilizer out of Willow Creek, and why does that help fish?	**Families can use only the fertilizer their lawns need and keep it off sidewalks. This limits nutrients that can wash into the creek and lead to less oxygen for fish.**
2	Which town action protects creek water near parking lots? Explain how it works.	**The town can build rain gardens. They collect runoff and let it soak into the ground instead of rushing into storm drains.**
3	How does the farmer's action protect both soil and creek water?	**The farmer plants without plowing and leaves old crop stems on the ground. This helps keep soil from washing off the fields and into the creek.**
4	Name one action students take and one action the town takes to protect air. How do the actions work together?	**Students walk to school instead of riding in cars, and the town adds safe crossing signs. The signs help more families choose to walk, reducing car trips and pollution.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I can use the blank sides of old worksheets for notes, so less new paper made from trees is needed. The school can add a water refill station so students use fewer single-use plastic bottles, saving materials made from oil.

For Part 3, accept other feasible student and school actions if each includes a correct explanation of how it conserves a natural resource.