The Garden Barrel

How neighbors protect natural resources

3.C.2.4.C "Examine the concepts of scarcity and surplus of natural resources and describe the role of citizens in conserving the state's resources (e.g., water rationing, recycling efforts)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one clue that water is scarce, circle one clue that water is a surplus, and write 1 and 2 beside two different ways people conserve resources.

Water for the Garden

1. At the town garden, Maya checks a rain barrel after three wet days. It holds rainwater collected from the shed roof. The barrel is full, and the garden has more rainwater than its plants need right now. That extra water is a surplus. Maya's neighbors save it for later and use stored rainwater instead of a hose when plants need a drink.

2. Two weeks later, hot days pass without rain. Only a little water remains in the barrel, but the garden's beans and tomatoes still need water. This shortage is called scarcity. The town asks people to use less water outdoors so there is enough for homes and other needs. This is water rationing. Gardeners give each plant a small amount near its roots instead of spraying the path.

3. At the garden gate, Maya finds empty plastic bottles from a picnic. Oil from underground is a natural resource used to make many plastics. Her town accepts these bottles for recycling. Maya puts the bottles in the right bin, so some plastic can be used again. Recycling can reduce the need for new oil. Saving water and recycling help protect resources across the state.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the garden have a surplus of rainwater after the wet days?

2. What shows that water is scarce at the garden two weeks later?

3. How do the town and the gardeners use less water when it is scarce?

4. How can recycling the picnic bottles help conserve a natural resource?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your school has a garden. Write three sentences: describe when its rainwater might be a surplus, describe when it might be scarce, and explain one way students could save water during the scarce time.

ANSWER KEY

The Garden Barrel

GRADE 3 · 3.C.2.4.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one clue that water is scarce, circle one clue that water is a surplus, and write 1 and 2 beside two different ways people conserve resources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the garden have a surplus of rainwater after the wet days?	**The barrel is full, and it holds more rainwater than the plants need right then.**
2	What shows that water is scarce at the garden two weeks later?	**Only a little water remains in the barrel, but the plants still need water.**
3	How do the town and the gardeners use less water when it is scarce?	**The town asks people to use less water outdoors. The gardeners give each plant a small amount near its roots instead of spraying the path.**
4	How can recycling the picnic bottles help conserve a natural resource?	**Some plastic can be used again, which can reduce the need for new oil.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After a rainy week, our garden's tank could hold more rainwater than the seedlings need. After a month without rain, the tank could be nearly empty while the seedlings still need water. Students could cover the soil with dry leaves to help it stay damp longer.

For the marking job, accept any passage clue that correctly shows a surplus or scarcity and any two distinct conservation actions. For Your Turn, accept realistic conditions and a water-saving action that fits the dry time.