Mangroves Matter

Read how a village balances visitors and conservation.

6.C.4.5 "Evaluate the need to preserve resources, climate, and wildlife by creating public awareness, including the efforts of eco-tourism."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons to protect the mangroves, circle two ways the village helps visitors learn about them, and number two rules that reduce harm. Use your marks to judge how the village's visits can help protect the forest.

Visitors in the Mangrove Forest

1 At a coastal village, visitors come to see mangrove trees and the birds that nest among them. The trees grow in salty water, and their tangled roots shelter young fish. Some families fish nearby, while others lead visitors along a raised walkway. When people cut mangroves for building space, fish lose shelter and birds lose nesting places. A bare shore also faces stronger waves during storms. Village leaders want visitors to understand that protecting this forest supports both wildlife and people's lives.

2 Mangroves also store carbon in their trunks, roots, and soil. When people clear the trees, some of that stored carbon can enter the air and add to warming. A local nature group puts short signs at the walkway entrance. One sign explains this climate connection, and another shows how roots shelter young fish. Guides explain these connections during walks and invite visitors to share what they learn at home. Signs alone cannot prevent damage, but they help people see why this forest matters.

3 The village calls these small guided visits eco-tourism because the trips aim to protect nature while bringing income to local people. Visitors pay a modest guide fee, and part of the money pays for walkway repairs and tree care. To avoid harming the place they came to see, guides keep groups small and ask visitors to stay on the walkway. These rules can limit the number of paying guests each day. Still, leaders judge the limits worthwhile if the forest stays healthy enough to support fish, birds, and future visits.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might protecting the mangroves be better for the village than clearing them for building space? Give two reasons from the passage.

2. Which fact should a guide share to help visitors understand why mangroves matter for the climate? Explain why that fact matters.

3. Are small visitor groups worth the possible loss of paying guests? Use evidence from the passage to support your judgment.

4. How could guide fees help the village protect the forest while earning income? Give one benefit to people and one benefit to nature.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence welcome message for new visitors. Explain why mangroves matter for wildlife and climate, invite visitors to take one specific low-impact action, and explain why that action is worth a possible cost to tourism.

ANSWER KEY

Mangroves Matter

GRADE 6 · 6.C.4.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons to protect the mangroves, circle two ways the village helps visitors learn about them, and number two rules that reduce harm. Use your marks to judge how the village's visits can help protect the forest. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might protecting the mangroves be better for the village than clearing them for building space? Give two reasons from the passage.	**Protecting mangroves keeps shelter for young fish and nesting places for birds. It also helps shield the shore from strong storm waves.**
2	Which fact should a guide share to help visitors understand why mangroves matter for the climate? Explain why that fact matters.	**Mangroves store carbon in their trunks, roots, and soil. Clearing them can release some stored carbon into the air and add to warming.**
3	Are small visitor groups worth the possible loss of paying guests? Use evidence from the passage to support your judgment.	**Yes. Small groups reduce harm to the forest, which helps it continue to support fish, birds, and future visits, even if fewer guests pay each day.**
4	How could guide fees help the village protect the forest while earning income? Give one benefit to people and one benefit to nature.	**Guided visits bring income to local people. Part of the fees pays for walkway repairs and tree care, which help protect the forest.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Welcome to our mangrove forest, where roots give young fish shelter. Its soil stores carbon that could enter the air if the trees were cleared. Please join a small guided group so your visit causes less harm. Smaller groups may mean fewer ticket sales today, but a healthy forest can welcome visitors for years.

Accept judgments supported by accurate evidence from the passage. For the welcome message, look for four sentences that address wildlife, climate, a specific low-impact action, and a possible cost to tourism.