

Earth's Supply

Read how careful choices protect natural resources.

3.11.B "explain why the conservation of natural resources is important; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action that conserves a natural resource. Circle the words that explain why that action is important.

Careful Choices for Earth

- ① Natural resources are materials from Earth that people need. Water, soil, trees, rocks, and sunlight are natural resources. Some resources can be replaced, but they may take a long time. Others, such as oil and natural gas, take millions of years to form. Because people use resources every day, careful choices help keep enough available for people, plants, and animals.
- ② At Oak Street School, a dripping faucet wasted water all day. A class told an adult, who repaired it. Students also turned off faucets while soaping their hands. Saving water matters because people need clean water to drink and grow food. Fish, frogs, and other living things need water in their habitats too. Using only what is needed leaves more water available.
- ③ Paper comes from trees, so students can conserve trees by using both sides of a sheet and placing used paper in a recycling bin. Recycling can turn old paper into new products, which may reduce the number of new trees cut down. Conserving resources also reduces trash and pollution. When communities waste less today, they help protect Earth's resources for the future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What two actions did the students take to conserve water at school?

2 Why is saving clean water important for people and other living things?

3 How can using both sides of a sheet of paper help conserve trees?

4 How can conserving resources help the future?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one natural resource from the passage. Write two sentences that describe a new way to conserve it and explain why your choice is important.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action that conserves a natural resource. Circle the words that explain why that action is important. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two actions did the students take to conserve water at school?	They told an adult about the dripping faucet, and they turned off faucets while soaping their hands.
2	Why is saving clean water important for people and other living things?	People need clean water to drink and grow food. Fish, frogs, and other living things need water in their habitats.
3	How can using both sides of a sheet of paper help conserve trees?	It uses less paper, which may reduce the number of new trees cut down.
4	How can conserving resources help the future?	When communities waste less, they protect Earth's resources for the future. Conserving also reduces trash and pollution.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I can keep soil healthy by putting food scraps in a compost bin instead of throwing them away. Healthy soil helps plants grow food, so people and animals can have what they need.

Accept reasonable conservation actions and explanations that connect the action to protecting a resource, meeting needs, reducing pollution, or saving resources for the future. The student's chosen action should not repeat a specific action from the passage.