

Not Enough to Share

Read closely to define scarcity and find real examples.

3.6.B “define and identify examples of scarcity;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that defines scarcity, then write 1 beside the tomato example and 2 beside the time example.

Choices at Riverside

- ① Scarcity happens when people want more of something than is available. It does not mean that an item is gone forever. It means there is not enough for everyone who wants it right now. Scarcity can involve natural resources, goods, money, time, or workers. People must make choices when scarce resources cannot meet every want.
- ② At Riverside Garden, families signed up to pick tomatoes on Saturday. The garden had twenty tomato baskets, but thirty families wanted one. Tomatoes were scarce because the number of baskets was smaller than the number of families who wanted baskets. Garden leaders gave each family a number and used a drawing to decide which twenty families could pick tomatoes.
- ③ Scarcity can also happen with time. Ms. Chen had one hour to help students rehearse for the school play. Four groups asked for thirty minutes of help. She could not help every group for thirty minutes in that hour. Her time was scarce, so she asked groups to choose a shorter practice time or meet with another adult.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What does scarcity mean?

2 Why were tomatoes scarce at Riverside Garden?

3 Why was Ms. Chen's time scarce?

4 Name two types of things that can be scarce. Then name the scarce thing in one story from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Invent a new situation that is not about a garden or a school play. Write two sentences: tell what people want and what is limited, then explain why the situation is scarcity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that defines scarcity, then write 1 beside the tomato example and 2 beside the time example. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does scarcity mean?	Scarcity means people want more of something than is available, so there is not enough for everyone who wants it right now.
2	Why were tomatoes scarce at Riverside Garden?	The garden had twenty tomato baskets, but thirty families wanted one.
3	Why was Ms. Chen's time scarce?	She had only one hour, but four groups each wanted thirty minutes of help.
4	Name two types of things that can be scarce. Then name the scarce thing in one story from the passage.	Answers may include goods, time, money, workers, or natural resources. In the garden story, tomatoes or tomato baskets were scarce. In Ms. Chen's story, time was scarce.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the town library, ten children want to use four computers after school. This is scarcity because there are fewer computers than children who want them.

Accept clear definitions that state people want more than is available. For the open response, accept any new realistic situation that names a limited resource and explains that it cannot meet all wants.