

Watering Wise Choices

Follow a team as it makes and checks a plan.

4.22.B “use problem-solving and decision-making processes to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution.”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the problem, circle the information the team gathered, number the three options, and put a star by the evidence used to evaluate the choice.

A Plan for Every Plant

- ① At Riverbend Elementary, the student garden needed water each day, but the hose could not reach the far beds. Some plants dried out during warm weeks. The Garden Team named the problem: how could they water every bed without wasting water? Before choosing anything, they watched where water pooled, measured the hose, and asked the custodian about the outdoor faucet.
- ② They listed three options. Carrying watering cans would cost nothing, but it would take a long time. A longer hose would reach the beds, but it might leave puddles near the faucet. A drip line would send water slowly to plant roots and use less water, but the team would need help installing it. The custodian said a drip line could connect safely to the faucet.
- ③ The team chose the drip line because it could reach all the beds while using less water. With the custodian's help, they attached the line and placed small holes near the plants. For two weeks, team members checked the soil each morning and recorded the plants' condition. The beds stayed moist, and no new puddles formed. The team decided the solution worked, but planned to check it each week.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem did the Garden Team identify?

2 What information did the team gather before choosing a solution?

3 What was one advantage and one disadvantage of using a longer hose?

4 What evidence showed that the drip line worked, and what did the team plan to do next?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a small problem at school or home. Complete the six rows in order: state the problem, gather information, list options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and carry out a solution, then explain how you would evaluate it.

DECISION STEP	YOUR NOTES

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the problem, circle the information the team gathered, number the three options, and put a star by the evidence used to evaluate the choice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem did the Garden Team identify?	The hose could not reach the far garden beds, so some plants dried out.
2	What information did the team gather before choosing a solution?	They watched where water pooled, measured the hose, asked the custodian about the faucet, and learned that a drip line could connect safely.
3	What was one advantage and one disadvantage of using a longer hose?	A longer hose would reach the beds, but it might leave puddles near the faucet.
4	What evidence showed that the drip line worked, and what did the team plan to do next?	The beds stayed moist and no new puddles formed. The team planned to check the drip line each week.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

DECISION STEP	YOUR NOTES
Problem	Paper scraps are left on the art-room floor.
Information	I watched after three classes and asked the art teacher where scraps collect.
Options	Put a recycling bin by each table, assign a cleanup helper, or use one larger bin.
Advantages and disadvantages	Table bins are close but cost more. A helper is free but may miss a day. One large bin costs less but is farther away.
Solution and action	We chose one large bin and put it beside the door for one week.
Evaluate	I counted fewer scraps after class. The bin worked, so we will keep using it.

Accept equivalent wording that identifies the passage details accurately. In the table, accept reasonable school or home problems when the student includes each decision-making step and gives a logical way to evaluate the solution.