

Water Choices

Compare how different users value a limited resource.

WG.2.c "evaluating perspectives regarding the use of resources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each stakeholder's preferred use of Pine Creek water, then circle the reason the stakeholder gives for that choice.

A Dry-Summer Decision

- ① During a dry summer, the town of Arroyo Ridge must decide how to share water from Pine Creek. The creek supplies drinking water, irrigates nearby orchards, turns turbines at a small hydropower plant, and supports trout habitat. Town council members propose a limit on outdoor watering so homes can keep enough water for cooking, bathing, and fire protection. They say safe household water is the community's first responsibility during the drought. Their plan would also fine repeat violations.
- ② Orchard growers want enough water to save young trees, which can die after repeated dry seasons. They argue that orchards provide jobs and local fruit, and that losing trees would harm the area for years. The hydropower plant manager prefers releasing water through the turbines each afternoon, when electricity demand is high. She says the plant can reduce use of fossil fuels, but she admits that lower creek flow could affect other users as well.
- ③ A river ecologist recommends keeping a minimum flow in Pine Creek before water is sent to orchards or turbines. He explains that shallow, warm water can stress trout and damage the insects they eat. The ecologist also notes that healthy stream habitat can support fishing businesses and cultural practices. Each proposal has benefits and costs. A fair decision should compare immediate needs with long-term effects, then explain which needs receive priority and why in a drought.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do the town council's preferred use of water and the orchard growers' preferred use differ?

2 What benefit do orchard growers connect to irrigation, and what possible cost does the hydropower manager admit?

3 Why would the river ecologist likely question sending too much water to the hydropower plant? Use details from the passage.

4 According to the passage, what should a fair resource decision compare before choosing a priority?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A reservoir has enough water for only two of these uses: community drinking water, vegetable farm irrigation, and river flow for kayak businesses. In five sentences, explain the perspective of each group, recommend which two uses should receive water, and support your decision with immediate and long-term effects.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each stakeholder's preferred use of Pine Creek water, then circle the reason the stakeholder gives for that choice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the town council's preferred use of water and the orchard growers' preferred use differ?	The council prioritizes household water for essential needs. The growers prioritize irrigation to save young orchard trees.
2	What benefit do orchard growers connect to irrigation, and what possible cost does the hydropower manager admit?	Growers say irrigation protects jobs, local fruit, and trees that take years to replace. The manager admits lower creek flow could affect other users.
3	Why would the river ecologist likely question sending too much water to the hydropower plant? Use details from the passage.	Sending too much water through turbines could lower creek flow. Shallow, warm water can stress trout and harm the insects they eat.
4	According to the passage, what should a fair resource decision compare before choosing a priority?	It should compare immediate needs with long-term effects, then explain which needs receive priority and why.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Residents need reliable drinking water because health and safety come first. Vegetable farmers need irrigation to protect crops, jobs, and the local food supply. Kayak businesses need river flow because visitors support local income, and low flow can harm habitat. I would reserve water for drinking and a minimum river flow, rather than provide full farm irrigation. This choice protects essential needs and reduces long-term stream damage, although farmers could lose some crops.

Accept supported comparisons of stakeholder priorities, benefits, and costs. For Your Turn, accept any two-use recommendation that accurately represents all three perspectives and uses both an immediate and a long-term effect.