

Every Drop Counts

Read about why fresh water is limited and how people can save it.

3.8.b “water is limited and needs to be conserved;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action that conserves water. Circle the words that explain why water needs to be saved.

Saving Fresh Water

- ① Fresh water contains very little dissolved salt. People get fresh water from rivers, lakes, and water stored underground. Earth has much water, but most is salty ocean water or frozen ice. The usable fresh water must serve many people and living things. During a dry season, less rain refills streams and underground water, so each drop matters.
- ② At Maple School, a dripping faucet filled a cup again and again. The custodian repaired it, stopping water from being wasted. Students also noticed that some sinks ran while hands were being soaped. They learned to wet their hands, turn off the tap, add soap, then turn the tap on to rinse. This uses less water while hands still get clean.
- ③ Families can conserve water outdoors, too. A garden needs water, but a hose left running sends extra water down the driveway. Watering plants early in the morning can reduce water lost as it warms in the sun. Collecting rain in a covered rain barrel, where allowed, can provide water for plants. Saving water helps keep enough available for people and other living things.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why is usable fresh water limited?

2 How did repairing the dripping faucet conserve water?

3 What should students do while they soap their hands to use less water?

4 Name one way families can conserve water outdoors. Explain how it saves water.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two sentences about two ways you can conserve water at home. Explain how each action prevents water from being wasted.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action that conserves water. Circle the words that explain why water needs to be saved. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is usable fresh water limited?	Most of Earth's water is salty ocean water or frozen ice, and usable fresh water must serve many people and living things.
2	How did repairing the dripping faucet conserve water?	Repairing the faucet stopped water from dripping and being wasted.
3	What should students do while they soap their hands to use less water?	They should turn off the tap while they add soap, then turn it on again to rinse.
4	Name one way families can conserve water outdoors. Explain how it saves water.	Families can water plants early in the morning, which can reduce water lost as the sun warms the day. They can also avoid leaving a hose running or collect rain in a covered rain barrel where allowed.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At home, I will take shorter showers so less water runs down the drain. I will tell an adult if I see a leaking toilet so the leak can be repaired and stop wasting water.

Accept answers that identify two realistic water-saving actions and explain how each action reduces waste. Wording may vary if the conservation ideas are accurate.