

Resources That Last

How forests, soil, and land support people and living things.

4.8.d "forests, soil, and land."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sentences that tell how forests, soil, or land are useful. Circle actions people can take to protect these natural resources.

Working Together

- ① Forests, soil, and land are natural resources. People depend on them every day. A forest provides wood for homes, paper, and some tools. Tree roots hold soil in place. Leaves and fallen branches can become part of the soil as they break down. Forests also give many animals food, shelter, and places to raise young.
- ② Soil is a mixture of tiny rock pieces, air, water, and decayed plant or animal material. Plants use soil for water, nutrients, and support. Farmers grow crops in healthy soil. When bare soil washes away during heavy rain, it can carry nutrients into streams. Planting ground cover and using mulch can help protect soil from erosion.
- ③ Land includes places for homes, farms, parks, roads, and forests. Careful land use considers what is already there. Builders can leave trees near a stream to slow runoff and protect wildlife habitat. A community can set aside parkland so people and animals have open space. Using resources wisely helps meet needs now while saving forests, soil, and land for the future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name the three natural resources described in the passage.

2 How do tree roots help protect soil?

3 What can happen when bare soil washes away during heavy rain?

4 Give two ways people can use land carefully from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine your community has an empty piece of land near a stream. Write exactly three sentences that explain a plan for the land, include one way to protect soil or trees, and tell one benefit for people or animals.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline sentences that tell how forests, soil, or land are useful. Circle actions people can take to protect these natural resources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name the three natural resources described in the passage.	Forests, soil, and land.
2	How do tree roots help protect soil?	They hold soil in place.
3	What can happen when bare soil washes away during heavy rain?	It can carry nutrients into streams.
4	Give two ways people can use land carefully from the passage.	They can leave trees near a stream and set aside parkland.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our community should make a small park on the empty land. Workers should leave trees near the stream and plant ground cover to hold the soil. The park will give families open space and give animals shelter.

Accept answers that accurately identify resource uses and protection actions stated in the passage. For Part 3, accept any realistic three-sentence plan that includes a land use, a soil or tree protection action, and a benefit.