# Water at Work

Trace how water supports farms, electricity, and healthy communities.

**6.6.f** "water is important for agriculture, power generation, and public health."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells how people use water. Circle the words that name a benefit or result of that use.

### Three Jobs for Water

1. On a vegetable farm, water begins work before food reaches a store. Farmers use pipes, sprinklers, or drip lines to carry water to crops. Plants need water to move nutrients from soil into their roots and stems. When rain is scarce, irrigation can keep plants growing. However, farmers must use water carefully. Drip lines send water near roots, reducing waste from evaporation and runoff. Healthy crops depend on enough clean water at the right time.

2. Water also helps produce electricity. At a hydroelectric dam, stored water flows through a pipe and spins turbines. The spinning turbines run generators, which make electric current. After passing through the turbines, water continues downstream. This process does not burn fuel, but dams can change river habitats and fish movement. Power plant operators manage water releases to balance electricity needs with river conditions.

3. Communities need safe water every day. Water treatment plants remove dirt and harmful microbes before water travels through pipes to homes, schools, and clinics. People use this water for drinking, cooking, washing hands, and cleaning. These uses help prevent the spread of diseases. Wastewater carries used water away from buildings to treatment facilities, where it is cleaned before release or reuse. Protecting rivers, lakes, and groundwater from pollution helps communities maintain a reliable supply of safe water.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do drip lines help farmers use water carefully?

2. What happens after water flows through a hydroelectric dam's turbines?

3. Name two ways people use treated water that help protect public health.

4. Why is protecting rivers, lakes, and groundwater from pollution important for a community?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Complete the table with one realistic water plan for each area. Explain how each plan supports agriculture, power generation, or public health.

| AREA | WATER PLAN | BENEFIT |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

ANSWER KEY

# Water at Work

GRADE 6 · 6.6.f

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells how people use water. Circle the words that name a benefit or result of that use. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How do drip lines help farmers use water carefully? | **They send water near plant roots and reduce water lost through evaporation and runoff.** |
| 2 | What happens after water flows through a hydroelectric dam's turbines? | **The spinning turbines run generators that make electric current, and the water continues downstream.** |
| 3 | Name two ways people use treated water that help protect public health. | **Answers include drinking, cooking, washing hands, and cleaning.** |
| 4 | Why is protecting rivers, lakes, and groundwater from pollution important for a community? | **It helps the community maintain a reliable supply of safe water.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

| AREA | WATER PLAN | BENEFIT |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | A farm uses drip irrigation for tomato plants. | Water reaches roots with less evaporation and runoff. |
| Power generation | A hydroelectric plant adjusts water releases. | It produces electricity while considering river conditions. |
| Public health | A town treats drinking water and wastewater. | People have safer water, and pollution is reduced. |

Accept equivalent passage-based explanations for Parts 1 and 2. For the table, accept realistic plans that correctly connect water use to a benefit in each of the three required areas.