

Resources in Balance

Read how careful choices protect Earth materials and living systems.

6.9.a “natural resources are important to protect and maintain;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each natural resource named in the passage. Circle each threat to a resource, then number each action that helps protect or maintain a resource.

A Creek and Its Resources

- ① Natural resources are materials from Earth that people and other living things use. Fresh water, soil, trees, rocks, sunlight, and wildlife are examples. Some resources, such as sunlight, are renewed quickly. Others take a very long time to form or can be used faster than nature replaces them. Clean water is especially important because people need it to drink, grow food, wash, and make many products. Fish, insects, birds, and plants also depend on healthy water sources.
- ② At Pine Creek, rain can wash loose soil, motor oil, and litter from streets into storm drains. These drains lead to the creek, so pollutants can harm the water and the organisms living there. Trees and grasses along the creek bank help hold soil in place. Their roots reduce erosion, and their leaves slow rainwater. Community volunteers protect the creek by picking up litter, using fewer harmful chemicals outdoors, and planting native vegetation. These actions help maintain water quality over time.
- ③ Protecting a resource does not mean that nobody may use it. It means using it carefully and helping it stay available and healthy. For example, a farm can use water for crops while avoiding waste through drip irrigation. A family can conserve electricity by turning off unused lights, which reduces demand for fuels mined or drilled from Earth. Rules, repairs, and daily choices all matter. When people prevent pollution and limit waste, they protect resources for ecosystems and for people in the future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What three materials can rain wash from streets into the storm drains at Pine Creek?

2 How do trees and grasses along the creek bank help protect the creek?

3 Name two actions the community volunteers use to protect Pine Creek.

4 How does turning off unused lights help protect a natural resource?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one natural resource used at your school or home. Write three sentences that name the resource, describe one threat or type of waste, and explain two actions people can take to protect and maintain it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each natural resource named in the passage. Circle each threat to a resource, then number each action that helps protect or maintain a resource. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three materials can rain wash from streets into the storm drains at Pine Creek?	Loose soil, motor oil, and litter.
2	How do trees and grasses along the creek bank help protect the creek?	Their roots hold soil in place and reduce erosion. Their leaves slow rainwater.
3	Name two actions the community volunteers use to protect Pine Creek.	Any two: pick up litter, use fewer harmful chemicals outdoors, or plant native vegetation.
4	How does turning off unused lights help protect a natural resource?	It conserves electricity and reduces demand for fuels that are mined or drilled from Earth.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should protect the soil in its garden. Students can keep bare soil covered with leaves or mulch and stay on paths so rain does not carry soil away. Classes can compost fruit scraps to add nutrients instead of throwing the scraps away.

For Questions 1 through 4, accept only details stated in the passage. For the open response, accept a realistic resource, a relevant threat or waste, and two actions that would help keep the resource available or healthy.