

Protect the Ground

Read how planning and prevention keep land useful and hazards lower.

6.9.e “preventive measures can protect land-use and reduce environmental hazards; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each preventive measure in the passage. Circle the hazard or land-use problem that each measure helps prevent.

A Safer Community Field

- ① Before a community builds a new sports field, workers study the land. They choose a level area away from streams and wetlands, where rainwater will not carry loose soil into the water. During construction, crews place silt fences along the downhill edge of bare soil. These fabric barriers slow muddy runoff and let soil settle. Keeping soil on the site protects nearby habitats and saves the field area from erosion that could make the ground uneven.
- ② Fuel and paint used by the crews can create hazards if they leak into soil or storm drains. Workers store these materials in labeled, closed containers under a covered area. A tray beneath each container can catch a small leak before it spreads. They also keep a spill kit nearby, with absorbent material and gloves. These steps reduce fire risk, protect water quality, and help prevent harmful substances from reaching plants, animals, people, and nearby homes.
- ③ After the field opens, the community can continue protecting the land. Pavement in the parking area is designed to let some rain soak through instead of rushing across the surface. Native grasses around the field hold soil with their roots and need less watering after they are established. Signs ask visitors to use trash and recycling bins. Preventing litter and runoff from entering drains keeps the field useful and lowers pollution risks downstream for neighbors.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do silt fences protect the land near the field and nearby water?

2 Name two ways workers prevent fuel or paint from spreading. What hazards do these steps reduce?

3 How do the parking pavement and native grasses help manage rainwater and soil?

4 Why is choosing a field location away from streams and wetlands a preventive measure?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A community plans a small garden beside a school. Write three sentences that describe three preventive measures for the garden, and explain the land-use problem or environmental hazard each measure would reduce.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each preventive measure in the passage. Circle the hazard or land-use problem that each measure helps prevent. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do silt fences protect the land near the field and nearby water?	They slow muddy runoff and allow soil to settle, so less soil erodes from the field site into nearby water.
2	Name two ways workers prevent fuel or paint from spreading. What hazards do these steps reduce?	Workers use labeled, closed containers under cover, place trays beneath containers, and keep a spill kit nearby. These measures reduce fire risk and prevent harmful materials from reaching soil, drains, water, living things, and homes.
3	How do the parking pavement and native grasses help manage rainwater and soil?	The pavement lets some rain soak into the ground, and grass roots hold soil in place. Both reduce runoff and erosion.
4	Why is choosing a field location away from streams and wetlands a preventive measure?	It makes it less likely that rainwater will carry loose soil into streams or wetlands, protecting water habitats and helping keep the field ground usable.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Gardeners can plant shrubs along the downhill edge to hold soil and reduce erosion after rain. They can collect rainwater in a barrel so less water runs across the ground and into drains. They can keep fertilizer in a dry, locked shed to prevent spills that could pollute soil or water.

Accept three realistic preventive measures, each paired with a clear effect on protecting usable land or reducing an environmental hazard. Measures and explanations may differ from the sample.