

Saving Water Choices

Weigh costs and benefits of conservation policies.

6.9.f "there are cost/benefit tradeoffs in conservation policies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each benefit of a conservation policy and underline each cost or unwanted effect. Number the two policies described in the passage.

A Town Saves Water

- ① During a dry summer, the town of Mesa Verde asked homes to water lawns only twice each week. This conservation policy was meant to protect water in the town reservoir for drinking, firefighting, and wildlife. Using less water can also reduce the energy needed to pump and treat it. The policy had a cost, however. Some lawns turned brown, and families had to change their routines or pay for drought-tolerant plants. The town had to explain the rule and check reports of waste.
- ② At first, some residents wanted the rule removed because their yards looked different and gardens produced fewer flowers. Others said the short-term inconvenience was worth it. By late summer, the reservoir level was higher than town leaders expected, so the community did not need to buy emergency water from another county. That purchase would have raised water bills. Still, the lawn rule did not solve every problem. People with large gardens needed advice on saving water while keeping food plants alive.
- ③ Town leaders also considered fixing leaking water pipes. Repairing pipes would save water every day, even when no one was watching. Yet the work would cost money, close some streets, and take time. Leaders compared this policy with the lawn rule. They decided to use both: the lawn rule gave quick savings during the drought, while pipe repairs could provide long-term savings. Conservation choices often involve deciding which benefits matter most, which costs are fair, and how to reduce unwanted effects.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is one benefit of the twice-a-week lawn-watering rule?

2 Name two costs or unwanted effects of the lawn-watering rule.

3 How did the higher reservoir level help the town avoid another cost?

4 Why did town leaders choose both the lawn rule and pipe repairs?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a conservation policy for your school that saves a resource, such as water, paper, or electricity. In three sentences, state the policy, explain one benefit and one cost, and tell whether you think the benefit is worth the cost.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each benefit of a conservation policy and underline each cost or unwanted effect. Number the two policies described in the passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one benefit of the twice-a-week lawn-watering rule?	It protects reservoir water for drinking, firefighting, and wildlife, or it reduces energy used to pump and treat water.
2	Name two costs or unwanted effects of the lawn-watering rule.	Answers include brown lawns, changed family routines, paying for drought-tolerant plants, fewer garden flowers, and time spent explaining or checking the rule.
3	How did the higher reservoir level help the town avoid another cost?	The town did not need to buy emergency water from another county, which would have raised water bills.
4	Why did town leaders choose both the lawn rule and pipe repairs?	The lawn rule saved water quickly during the drought, while pipe repairs could save water over the long term.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school could require students to print on both sides of each sheet of paper. This policy would use less paper, but some students might find double-sided pages harder to organize. The paper savings are worth the small inconvenience because the school would need to buy less paper.

Accept equivalent benefits, costs, and explanations that are supported by the passage. For the open response, accept reasonable policies when the student clearly identifies a resource, a benefit, a cost, and a decision about the tradeoff.