

Protecting Natural Resources

Grade 3 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students identify natural resources and choose practical ways communities can conserve them. • Standards: D2.Geo.6.3-5, D2.Geo.7.3-5

Read each question about natural resources and how communities can protect them. Choose or write the best answer that shows a good way to conserve our resources.

1. Water is a natural resource. Which action helps save water? A) Leaving the faucet running while brushing teeth B) Turning off the faucet while brushing teeth C) Using more water than you need
2. Trees are an important natural resource. What is one way to help save trees? A) Cut down more trees B) Use both sides of paper C) Throw away paper after one use
3. Soil helps plants grow and is a natural resource. Which action helps protect soil? A) Pouring trash on the ground B) Planting grass and plants to hold soil in place C) Removing all plants from the ground
4. A town notices that people are using too much electricity. What is one way the community can conserve energy? A) Keep all lights on day and night B) Turn off lights in empty rooms C) Use more electricity than needed
5. A park has a lake where families fish and swim. The lake water is getting dirty from litter. What should the community do to protect this water resource? A) Add more litter to the lake B) Place trash cans around the lake and ask people to use them C) Stop cleaning the lake
6. A neighborhood wants to save water during a dry summer. Explain one way families can reduce the amount of water they use outdoors.
7. A school uses a lot of paper every day. The principal wants students to help conserve this resource. Name two actions students can take to use less paper at school.

8. A forest near town provides wood, clean air, and homes for animals. The town is growing and some people want to cut down many trees to build new stores. What is one way the community can grow while still protecting the forest resource?

9. A farming community depends on healthy soil to grow food. After many years of planting the same crops, the soil is losing nutrients and not growing plants as well. Explain one way farmers can help the soil stay healthy and productive.

10. A city gets its drinking water from a river. Factories, farms, and homes are all near the river. The city council wants to make sure the river stays clean for future generations. Describe two different actions the community can take to protect the river water from pollution.

Answer Key — Protecting Natural Resources

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. B *(Turning off the faucet while brushing teeth prevents wasting water.)*
2. B *(Using both sides of paper means we need fewer trees to make paper.)*
3. B *(Plant roots hold soil in place and prevent it from washing away.)*
4. B *(Turning off lights when not needed saves electricity.)*
5. B *(Providing trash cans and encouraging their use keeps litter out of the water.)*
6. Water lawns and gardens early in the morning or late in the evening when less water evaporates. *(Acceptable answers include watering at cooler times, using rain barrels, watering less often, or similar water-saving outdoor practices.)*
7. Students can use both sides of paper and recycle paper they no longer need. *(Acceptable answers include using both sides, recycling, using less paper, reusing scrap paper, or printing less.)*
8. Build stores in areas that are already cleared instead of cutting down more forest trees. *(Acceptable answers include building in cleared areas, planting new trees, limiting how many trees are cut, or creating protected forest areas.)*
9. Farmers can rotate crops by planting different crops each season so the soil does not lose the same nutrients every year. *(Acceptable answers include crop rotation, adding compost or natural fertilizers, planting cover crops, or letting fields rest.)*
10. The community can pass laws to stop factories from dumping waste into the river and create buffer zones with plants along the riverbank to filter runoff from farms and homes. *(Acceptable answers include any two reasonable actions such as: pollution laws, treating waste before release, planting buffer zones, reducing fertilizer use, cleaning up litter, monitoring water quality, or educating residents.)*