Informational Vocabulary

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

The Town That Saved Water

Every town needs water. People drink it, cook with it, and use it to grow food. Water is a resource, something people need and use that comes from nature. Trees, soil, and sunlight are resources too.

The town of Cedar Springs gets its water from a reservoir. This large lake was made by people. A dam holds the water back so the town can store it. Pipes carry the water to a treatment plant. At the plant, workers and machines clean the water before it flows to homes.

Two summers ago, very little rain fell. Week after week, the sky stayed clear. This long dry spell, called a drought, made the reservoir shrink. Soon there was not enough water for every home and farm. People wanted more water than the town had. That problem is called scarcity.

The town council had to act. Its seven members are elected by the citizens of Cedar Springs. Every Tuesday night, they meet at town hall to make decisions and pass rules for the town. Anyone can come and share ideas. That summer, the room was full every week.

After many meetings, the council passed a new measure. It said people could water lawns only two days a week. Car washes had to reuse their water. The council also asked families to conserve. Some families took shorter showers. Others turned off the faucet while brushing their teeth. One neighbor caught rain in barrels for her garden.

These steps worked. The town used much less water that summer. When the fall rains came, the reservoir slowly filled again. Farms had enough water for their crops.

Today, the council still asks people to use water wisely. Water is a renewable resource, because rain can refill the lake. But it is not unlimited. A town must plan ahead, or it may run short again.

1. In paragraph 1, what is a 'resource'?
   - something people build in a factory
   - a group that makes the town's rules
   - something useful that comes from nature
   - a rule about how to use water

2. In paragraph 2, what does 'plant' mean?
   - to put seeds into the ground
   - a living thing with leaves and roots
   - a building where work is done
   - a large lake made by people

3. Which phrase from the text is the best clue for 'drought'?
   - the reservoir slowly filled again
   - workers and machines clean the water
   - Trees, soil, and sunlight
   - This long dry spell

4. In paragraph 3, what does 'scarcity' mean?
   a long time with no rain
   not having enough for everyone
   having more than people need
   a rule about saving water

5. Using clues in paragraph 4, what is a town 'council'?
   a group elected to make town rules
   a list of ideas from citizens
   a crowd that visits the town hall
   a building where water is cleaned

6. In paragraph 5, the council passed a new 'measure.' What does 'measure' mean here?
   a rule or plan of action
   to find the size of something
   a cup used for cooking
   an amount of rain that falls

7. What does 'conserve' mean? Use the examples in paragraph 5.
   to share with neighbors to buy more and store to use less and save
   to clean before using

8. Which word from paragraph 2 means a large lake made by people?
   dam reservoir plant drought

9. The word 'unlimited' has the prefix un-. What does 'unlimited' mean?
   having no end running short soon having a small amount able to be used again

10. Which clue tells why water is a 'renewable' resource?
    This large lake was made by people
    because rain can refill the lake
    the council still asks people
    workers and machines clean the water

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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