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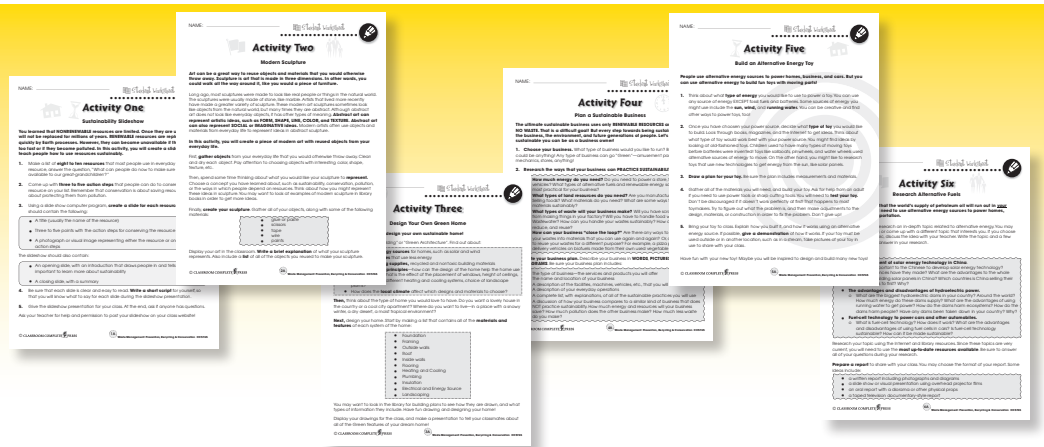
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Conserving Fresh Water

1. Think about what would happen if the water that comes out of your taps at home was no longer available. What would your family do? Where else could you get clean water? How much water would you need? Write your thoughts.

2. Use a dictionary to look up the word POTABLE. Write the definition on the lines below. The definition of **potable** is:

3. Match the word to its definition. You may use a dictionary to help you.

1	hazardous	when harmful substances made by humans get into a natural environment	A
2	recycle	substances that can harm living things	B
3	wetland	to use materials again for another purpose	C
4	pesticide	the place where a plant or animal lives in nature	D
5	pollution	an area on the earth that is naturally covered with shallow water, or that floods often	E
6	habitat	a substance used to kill insect pests	F



Conserving Fresh Water

How can we conserve water at home?

Fresh water is a very important resource. Although it is renewable, sources of fresh water can run out if people use too much. Sources of fresh water can also become **contaminated** with pollution.

The first step in conserving fresh water is to reduce your water use. Turn off the water when you are brushing teeth. Take shorter showers. Be sure to run clothes and dishwashers only with full loads. Fill gardens with plants that grow well in your area, and that do not need a lot of extra watering.

Another important step in conserving water at home is to be careful about what goes down your drain. Never pour **toxic**, or **hazardous**, substances down your drain or into the sewer. Common household hazardous substances include harsh cleaners, bleach, motor oil, pesticides, and oil-based paints. These substances can contaminate water supplies. Dispose of these substances at a hazardous waste collection site, never down a drain.

STOP Describe two things you can do to conserve water.

How can cities and towns conserve water?

Cities, towns, and even businesses can use recycled water for some purposes. **Recycled water** usually refers to water that has undergone the sewage treatment process. Instead of releasing the treated water back into the environment, it can be used for purposes other than drinking or washing. Recycled water is often used to water plants along highways and lawns of city buildings. In factories, recycled water can be used to cool machines. Sometimes, towns can even use recycled water to restore wetland habitats. Recycled water is not for drinking, though. When it is used to water lawns, you might see a sign warning that the water is not **potable**, or drinkable.



Conserving Fresh Water

1. The list below contains steps to conserve water at home. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

- a) _____ the amount of water you use.
- b) Turn off the water when you are _____ your teeth.
- c) Take _____ showers.
- d) Only run the clothes washer with a _____ load.
- e) In your garden, use plants that do not need a lot of extra _____.
- f) Never pour _____ or _____ substances down your drain.

2. a) **Circle** the items that you should **NEVER** pour down a drain or sewer.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| dish detergent | toothpaste | oil-based paints |
| bug spray | hand soap | bleach |
| spoiled milk | motor oil | watercolor paints |
| soda | flea powder | turpentine |

b) Explain how you should **dispose** of the items that you circled in the list above.



Conserving Fresh Water

3. What is recycled water?

4. Describe **three** different uses of recycled water.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Extension & Application

5. **Learn more about recycled water.** Begin by researching recycled water using the Internet or library resources. Find the answers to the following questions:

- How is water recycled by cities? What facilities are needed?
- How can water be recycled in a home or building? What equipment is needed?
- What are more uses of recycled water?

Then, contact your **local government agencies** to find out if water is being recycled in your area. Find the numbers for your local government in the phone book. Look for the planning department, department of works, environmental departments, or parks departments. Ask the following questions:

- Does our town recycle water?
- Where are the water recycling facilities?
- How is the recycled water used?

Present your findings to your class in a poster or oral presentation.

Reuse Contest

Hold a contest at your school to find the most USEFUL and CREATIVE ways to reuse everyday items. Work with a small group to run a contest for your class, or work with your whole class to run a contest for your school.

Part A

Create posters to **advertise** the contest. Be sure your posters answer the following questions:

- **Why** should students enter the contest? Tell students why it is important to reuse items instead of throwing them away.
- **What** are the contest rules? What are the prizes?
- **Where** is the contest located? Where should students drop off entries?
- **When** will the entries be judged? When is the deadline for entering?
- **Who** will judge the entries? Who is allowed to enter?
- **How** will the entries be judged? What are the judges looking for? Is there more than one category of winners? For example, you may want to offer one prize for the most practical reuse, and another for the most creative.

Part B

Collect all of the entries. Write a judging checklist that all of the judges can use. To write your checklist, think about what are the most important things you want to look for in entries. Do you want to use a point system for judging?

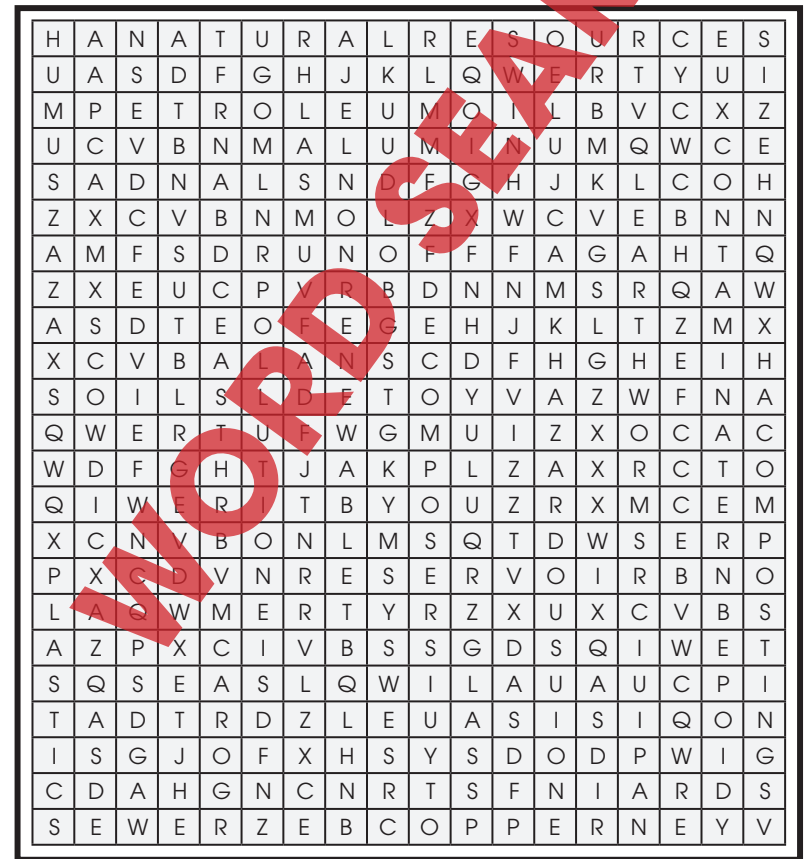
Part C

Choose the winners and runners-up. Keep the best projects on display for a week or two for parents, teachers, and students to view.

Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words are written horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and some are even written backwards.

natural resources	toxic	decomposers	runoff
metal	copper	land	hazardous
paper	reservoir	stone	contaminate
nonrenewable	windmills	humus	drain
petroleum oil	composting	fuel	sewer
glass	waste	soil	aluminum
pollution	plastic	earthworms	



Comprehension Quiz

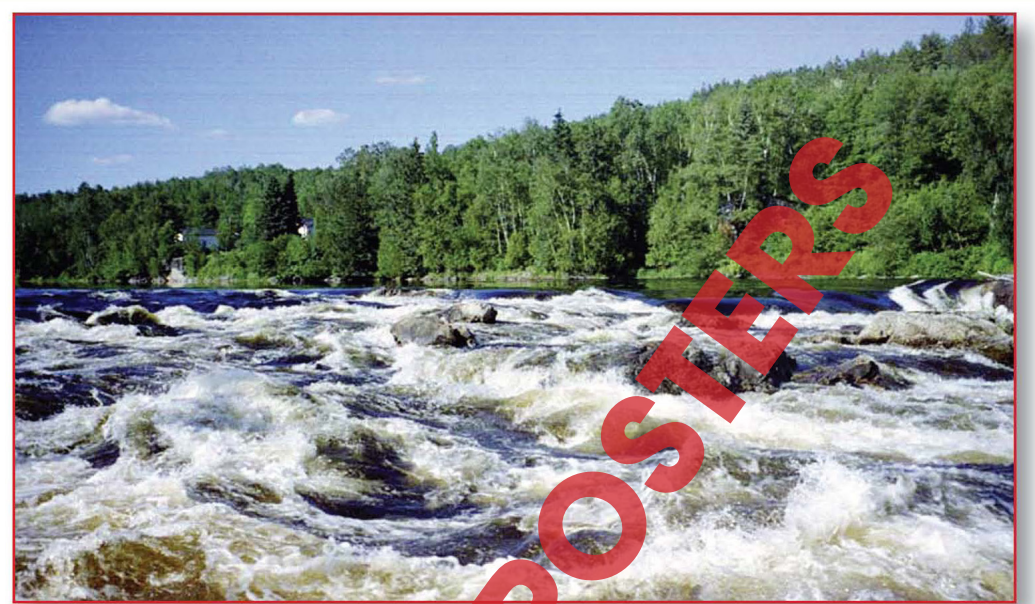
Part C

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Explain the difference between **renewable** and **nonrenewable** resources. Give examples of each. 4
2. Explain how **recycling** is a way to practice sustainability. 3
3. What is the difference between **water purification** and **sewage treatment**? 3
4. Give examples of how burning fossil fuels harms the environment and human health. 3
5. Explain how going "Green" can help a business save money and help the environment. 3

SUBTOTAL: /16

Fresh Water Resources



A stream



A reservoir

NAME: _____

After You Read 



Conserving Fresh Water

3. What is recycled water?

4. Describe three different uses of recycled water.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____



3.

Water that has undergone the sewage treatment process

Answers will vary

11

4.

Answers will vary, but should NOT include drinking or washing

Answers will vary

12

Answers will vary

5.

Answers will vary

13

Answers will vary

10

14



Extension & Application

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