Home Gardens and Plants

Reading Worksheet — Level F | tahricteaches.com

Home **agriculture** has experienced a remarkable **resurgence** in recent years, driven by concerns about food security, **sustainability**, and **nutrition**. Urban and suburban gardens now represent a significant movement toward self-sufficiency, allowing families to **cultivate** fresh produce while reducing their environmental impact and grocery expenses.

Successful **cultivation** requires understanding fundamental **ecosystem** principles. Plants depend on complex interactions between soil **microorganisms**, **nutrients**, water, and sunlight. **Organic** gardening methods emphasize building healthy soil through **compost**, avoiding synthetic **pesticides**, and promoting **biodiversity**. These practices create **sustainable** growing environments that improve over time.

Crop rotation and companion planting are essential **strategies** for maximizing **productivity** while minimizing pest problems. **Legumes** like beans and peas fix **nitrogen** in the soil, benefiting subsequent crops. **Aromatic** herbs such as basil and marigolds naturally **repel** common garden pests, reducing the need for chemical **interventions**.

Modern **techniques** like **vertical** gardening and **hydroponics** allow **intensive** cultivation in limited spaces. **Greenhouse** growing extends **harvest** seasons and protects crops from adverse weather. **Irrigation** systems can be automated to **conserve** water while ensuring **optimal** plant growth.

The **benefits** of home gardening extend beyond **economics**. Gardening provides physical exercise, stress relief, and **opportunities** for family **education**. Children who participate in gardening develop **appreciation** for nature, **responsibility**, and understanding of where food originates. **Sustainable** gardening practices also contribute to environmental **conservation** and **community** resilience.

A. Vocabulary

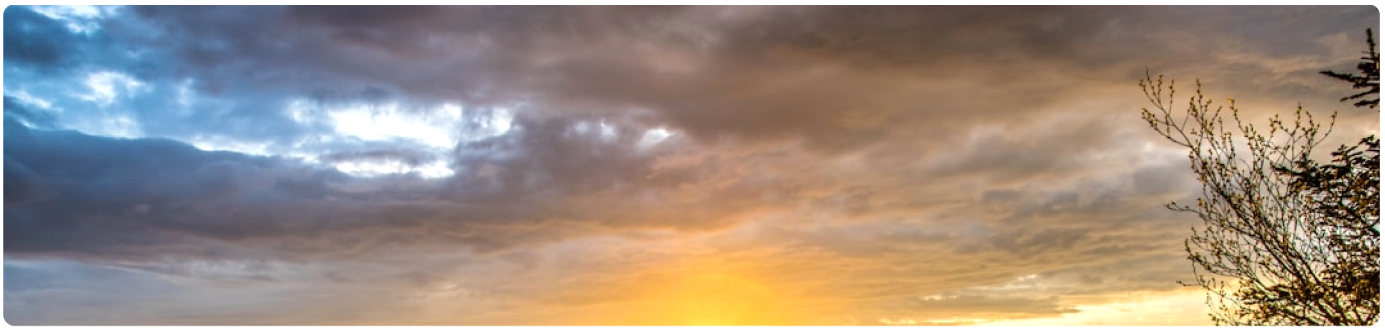
1. agriculture ____	a. growing plants in nutrient-rich water without soil
2. resurgence ____	b. the variety of plant and animal life in a habitat
3. cultivation ____	c. the process of preparing and caring for land to grow crops
4. ecosystem ____	d. a chemical element essential for plant growth
5. microorganisms ____	e. the science and practice of growing crops and raising animals
6. biodiversity ____	f. a renewal of activity or popularity after a decline
7. legumes ____	g. a community of living organisms interacting with their environment
8. nitrogen ____	h. extremely small living things like bacteria and fungi
9. vertical ____	i. plants in the bean family that can fix nitrogen from the air
10. hydroponics ____	j. growing upward in a straight line; arranged in layers

B. True or False

1. Home agriculture has declined in popularity in recent years. ____
2. Organic gardening emphasizes building healthy soil through compost. ____
3. Synthetic pesticides are essential for successful home gardens. ____
4. Crop rotation helps maximize productivity while reducing pest problems. ____
5. Legumes remove nitrogen from the soil, making it less fertile. ____
6. Aromatic herbs can naturally repel common garden pests. ____
7. Vertical gardening requires more space than traditional methods. ____

8. Hydroponics involves growing plants without soil. ____

9. Gardening provides only economic benefits for families. ____



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: cultivation, ecosystem, biodiversity, nitrogen, vertical, sustainable, conservation

1. Successful _____ requires understanding how soil organisms interact with plants.
2. Healthy garden _____ depend on complex relationships between all living things.
3. Promoting _____ helps create resilient growing environments.
4. Legumes fix _____ from the air, improving soil fertility.
5. _____ gardening maximizes production in limited spaces.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. What factors have driven the resurgence in home agriculture?
2. How do organic gardening methods differ from conventional approaches?
3. What is crop rotation and why is it important for garden health?
4. How do modern techniques like hydroponics expand gardening possibilities?
5. What benefits of home gardening extend beyond producing food?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Should schools require students to participate in gardening programs? What would be the benefits and challenges?
2. How might climate change affect home gardening practices, and how should gardeners adapt?
3. Is organic food production realistic for feeding large populations, or should it remain a hobby for individuals?

Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-e, 2-f, 3-c, 4-g, 5-h, 6-b, 7-i, 8-d, 9-j, 10-a

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-F

C. Fill Blanks: 1-cultivation, 2-ecosystem, 3-biodiversity, 4-nitrogen, 5-vertical

D. Comprehension:

1. Concerns about food security, sustainability, nutrition, and desire for self-sufficiency.
2. Organic methods focus on building healthy soil through compost, avoiding synthetic pesticides, and promoting biodiversity.
3. Crop rotation involves changing what crops are grown in each area to maximize productivity and minimize pest problems.
4. They allow intensive cultivation in limited spaces and extend growing seasons regardless of weather.
5. Physical exercise, stress relief, family education, environmental awareness, and community resilience.