

## Skills Worksheet

**Active Reading****Section: Land Management and Conservation**

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

People use enormous amounts of wood. The worldwide average is 1,800 cm<sup>3</sup> of wood used per person each day. However, on average, each person in the United States uses about 3.5 times this amount. This is the equivalent of each person in the United States cutting down a tree that is 30 m tall every year. About 1.5 billion people in developing countries depend on firewood as their main source of fuel.

The timber industry classifies forest lands into three categories—virgin forest, which is forest that has never been cut; native forest, which is forest that is planted and managed; and tree farms, which are areas where trees are planted in rows and harvested like other crops. The two most widely used methods of harvesting trees are clear-cutting and selective cutting. *Clear-cutting* is the process of removing all of the trees from an area of land. Clear-cutting large areas destroys wildlife habitat and causes soil erosion. The main alternative is selective cutting, which is usually practiced on smaller areas owned by individuals. *Selective cutting* is the process of cutting and removing only middle-aged or mature trees. Selective cutting is more expensive than clear-cutting, but selective cutting is usually much less destructive.

**IDENTIFYING MAIN IDEAS**

One reading skill is the ability to identify the main idea of a passage. The main idea is the main focus or key idea. Frequently, a main idea is accompanied by supporting information that offers detailed facts about the main idea.

In the space provided, write the letter of the term or phrase that best answers each question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. How many people in developing countries rely on firewood for fuel?
- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. 30 million  | c. 1.5 billion |
| b. 3.5 billion | d. 1.5 million |
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. How much wood does the average person (worldwide) use per day?
- |                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| a. 3.5 cm <sup>3</sup>   | c. 30 m  |
| b. 1,800 cm <sup>3</sup> | d. 1.5 m |
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. How much wood does the average person in the United States use per day?
- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. 1,800 cm <sup>3</sup> | c. 6,300 cm <sup>3</sup> |
| b. 5,400 cm <sup>3</sup> | d. 1,050 m               |

**Active Reading** *continued*

**VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT**

In the space provided, write the letter of the description that best matches the term or phrase.

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| _____ 4. clear-cutting     | a. forest that is planted and managed                                   |
| _____ 5. virgin forest     | b. forest that has never been cut                                       |
| _____ 6. selective cutting | c. the process of cutting and removing only middle-aged or mature trees |
| _____ 7. tree farms        | d. the process of removing all trees from an area of land               |
| _____ 8. native forest     | e. areas where trees are planted in rows and harvested like other crops |

**RECOGNIZING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES**

One reading skill is the ability to recognize similarities and differences between two phrases, ideas, or things. This is sometimes known as comparing and contrasting.

Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.

9. What comparison does the author use to show how much wood a person in the United States uses?

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10. What are the similarities between clear-cutting and selective cutting?

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11. What are the differences between clear-cutting and selective cutting?

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12. What are the advantages and disadvantages of clear-cutting versus selective cutting?

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