

# Active Reading

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## Section 1: How We Use Land

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

We use land for many purposes, including farming, mining, building cities and highways, and recreation. Land cover is what you find on a patch of land, and it often depends on how the land is used. For example, land cover might be a forest, a field of grain, or a parking lot. There are different types of land cover and different human uses for each cover type.

Land that is covered mainly with buildings and roads is called urban land. For the purposes of determining land use and residence trends, the U.S. Census Bureau defines an urban area as an area that contains 2,500 or more people and usually has a governing body, such as a city council. Any population not classified as urban is considered rural. Land that contains relatively few people and large areas of open space are rural areas. Most land provides one or more resources that humans consume. These resources include wood in forests, crops in farmland, and mineral resources.

### 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.

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

1. What is land cover?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. List three examples of land cover.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, how many people must an urban area contain?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What else must an urban area have?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Name three consumable resources that land may provide.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Active Reading *continued***

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**VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT**

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

6. Rural areas contain large areas of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ people.
7. Urban areas are covered with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and contain people.

**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.

8. How is a population determined to be rural instead of urban?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. How does land use differ between urban and rural populations?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RECOGNIZING CAUSE AND EFFECT**

One reading skill is the ability to recognize cause and effect.

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

- a. land use
- b. land cover
- c. land resource

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| _____ 10. field of grain | _____ 15. recreation                   |
| _____ 11. mining         | _____ 16. forest                       |
| _____ 12. wood           | _____ 17. minerals                     |
| _____ 13. farming        | _____ 18. food crop                    |
| _____ 14. parking lot    | _____ 19. building cities and highways |