

Name: _____

Lesson 29

Period: _____

Why Air Condition the Desert?

Directions. Read the *Handy Dandy Guide* and the mystery. Be careful.

While all the clues are correct, only some are *useful* in solving the mystery. Decide which clues are most relevant to solving the mystery. Use the clues and one or more of the ideas from the *Handy Dandy Guide* to figure out a solution to the mystery. Write your solution.

Handy Dandy Guide

1. People *choose*.
2. People's choices involve *costs*.
3. People respond to *incentives* in predictable ways.
4. People create *economic systems* that influence individual choices and incentives.
5. People gain when they *trade* voluntarily.
6. People's choices have consequences that lie in the *future*.

The Mystery

Water is a scarce resource. It is precious, especially in arid places and in areas where many people live. Yet in upscale shopping centers and resort areas in the southwestern United States, people try to cool the hot summer temperatures by using misters to emit a light spray of water into the air above sidewalks and patios, thus taking the edge off the desert heat.

Why would people in the middle of the desert use their scarce water resources to "air condition" the outdoors?

The Clues

1. Government-sponsored irrigation projects provide water at low prices in the southwestern United States.
2. The Environmental Protection Agency conducts water audits free of charge to encourage people to stretch water supplies by repairing leaky faucets and using low-flow plumbing.
3. Concerned about damage to the environment, the Environmental Protection Agency suggests that dam construction should be avoided wherever possible.
4. The West is the fastest growing region of the United States.
5. The West is the most arid region of the United States.
6. The average high temperature in Phoenix during June and July is about 105 degrees.
7. Most of the water produced by federal water projects is used for irrigating crops.

Record your solution and explain it briefly here:
