

## UNIT B: LESSON 3

### LEARNING TARGETS

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:**

Listen as your teacher reviews the standards and objectives. Your teacher will call on an individual or pair to explain what they mean.

Learning Target:

I can **analyze** how a major section of “Water Is Life” **contributes** to the **development** of ideas.

Learning Target:

I can **analyze** the basic **structure** of a **complex** sentence.

*analyze* – study something and explain it

*contribute* – add  
*development* – growth; when something becomes more complete

*structure* – the way parts of something are joined together

*complex* – something that has many different parts

### ACQUIRING AND USING VOCABULARY

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:**

Use your glossary for the rest of the lesson to find meanings for words you don’t know. Words that are **bolded** in the text and word banks can be found in the glossary. The glossary is located in the Appendix at the end of the lesson.

## THINKING LOG

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

Your teacher will ask you a guiding question that you will think about as your teacher reads the text aloud to you. As your teacher reads the text aloud, listen and follow along in your text. After the text has been read aloud, work with a partner to reread the text and answer the supplementary questions. Use your glossary to help you. Your teacher will review the answers with the class. You will then discuss the guiding question(s) with your teacher and the class. Finally, you will complete a written response to the guiding question(s).

**GUIDING QUESTION:** *How and why does Barbara Kingsolver describe places on Earth that have too little water for humans to live without struggling?*

Water is Life

By Barbara Kingsolver

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A world away from my damp hollow, the Bajo Piura Valley is a great bowl of the driest **Holocene** sands I've ever gotten in my shoes. Stretching from coastal, northwestern Peru into southern Ecuador, the 14,000-square-mile Piura Desert is home to many **endemic** forms of thorny life.

Profiles of this eco-**region** describe it as dry to drier, and Bajo Piura on its southern edge is what anyone would call driest. Between January and March it might get close to an inch of rain, depending on the whims of **El Niño**, my driver explained as we bumped over the dry bed of the Rio Piura, "but in some years, nothing at all." For hours we passed through white-crust fields ruined by years of irrigation and then into eye-burning valleys beyond the **limits** of endurance for anything but sparse stands of the deep-rooted *Prosopis pallida*, arguably nature's most arid-**adapted** tree. And **remarkably**, some scattered families of *Homo sapiens*.

### **WORD BANK:**

Ecuador

nothing at all

Piura Desert

humans

Peru

rain

### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS:**

1. *Where is Barbara Kingsolver as she begins this narrative?*

Barbara is in the \_\_\_\_\_. This desert stretches from northwestern \_\_\_\_\_ into southern \_\_\_\_\_.

2. *The Piura Desert is extremely dry. How do we know this?*

We know the Piura Desert is extremely dry because it only receives an inch of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ each year.

3. Remarkably (surprisingly), *Homo sapien* families live in the Piura Desert. What are *Homo sapiens*?

*Homo sapiens* are \_\_\_\_\_, like you and me.

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They are **economic** refugees, looking for land that costs nothing. In Bajo Piura they find it, although living there has other costs, and fragile drylands pay their own price too, as people **exacerbate desertification** by cutting anything living for firewood. What brought me there, as a journalist, was an **innovative reforestation project**. Peruvian conservationists, partnered with the NGO Heifer International, were guiding the population into herding goats, which eat the protein-rich pods of the native mesquite and **disperse** its seeds over the desert. In the shade of a stick shelter, a young mother set her dented pot on a dung-fed fire and showed how she curdles goat's milk into white cheese. But milking goats is hard to work into her schedule when she, and every other woman she knows, must walk about eight hours a day to **collect** water.

**WORD BANK:**

**disperse**

**innovative**

plants

trees

**economic** refugees

journalist

**reforestation**

firewood

land

tree

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS:**

4. Who are the *Homo sapien* families that live in the Piura Desert?

They are \_\_\_\_\_ (extremely poor people). They look for \_\_\_\_\_ that doesn't cost anything.

5. How do these families contribute to desertification (land becoming desert)?

The families cut any living \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Why is Barbara in the Piura Desert?

Barbara is there as a \_\_\_\_\_ (writer). She is learning about an \_\_\_\_\_ (new and creative) \_\_\_\_\_ project that will bring \_\_\_\_\_ back to the region.

7. Families in the area raise goats. Why are goats good for reforestation?

Goats are good for reforestation because they \_\_\_\_\_ (scatter) seeds from the mesquite \_\_\_\_\_ over the desert.

8. How far must a woman living in the Piura Desert walk each day to collect water?

A woman must walk about \_\_\_\_\_ hours each day to \_\_\_\_\_ water.

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Their husbands were digging a **well** nearby. They worked with hand trowels, a plywood form for lining the shaft with concrete, inch by inch, and a sturdy hand-built crank for lowering a man to the bottom and sending up buckets of sand. A dozen hopeful men in stained straw hats stood back to let me **inspect** their work, which so far had **yielded** only a mountain of **exhumed** sand, dry as dust. I looked down that black hole, then turned and climbed the sand mound to hide my **unprofessional** tears. I could not fathom this kind of **perseverance** and wondered how long these **beleaguered** people would last before they'd had enough of their water woes and moved somewhere else.

**WORD BANK:**

**beleaguered**

**exhumed**

**perseverance**

crying

journalist

sand

emotional

Journalists

**well**

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS:**

9. *What were the men doing?*

The men were digging a \_\_\_\_\_.

10. *Did the men find water? How do you know?*

The men \_\_\_\_\_ (did/did not) find water. The text says they \_\_\_\_\_ (dug up) only \_\_\_\_\_.

11. *Why does it mean that Barbara had to "hide [her] unprofessional tears."*

Barbara was \_\_\_\_\_.

12. *Why was Barbara crying?*

Barbara was crying because she could not understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of these \_\_\_\_\_ people.

13. *Why were Barbara's tears unprofessional?*

Barbara was there as a \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ are not supposed to make judgements about what they see. \_\_\_\_\_ are not supposed to be \_\_\_\_\_.

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Five years later they are still bringing up dry sand, scratching out their fate as a **microcosm** of life on this planet. There is nowhere else. Forty percent of the

households in sub-Saharan Africa are more than a half hour from the nearest water, and that distance is growing. Australian farmers can't follow the rainfall patterns that have shifted south to fall on the sea. A salmon that runs into a dam when **homing in** on her **natal** stream cannot make other plans. Together we dig in, for all we're worth.

**WORD BANK:**

Australia

sub-Saharan Africa

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS:**

14. *In this paragraph, Barbara describes more examples of places on Earth where there is not enough water. List two of the examples.*

Two places on Earth where there is not enough water are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

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Since childhood I've heard it's possible to look up from the bottom of a well and see stars, even in daylight. Aristotle wrote about this, and so did Charles Dickens. On many a dark night the vision of that round slip of sky with stars has comforted me. Here's the only problem: It's not true. Western civilization was in no great hurry to give up this folklore; astronomers **believed** it for centuries, but a few of them **eventually** thought to test it and had their **illusions** dashed by simple **observation**.

**WORD BANK:**

**believe**

centuries

**illusion**

water

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS:**

15. *Since she was a child, Barbara heard the following: if you stand at the bottom of a well and look up, you will see stars even in the daytime. Is this true?*

\_\_\_\_\_ (Yes, this is true/No, this is not true).

16. *How long did astronomers (scientists who study the universe) believe this story?*

Astronomers believed this story for \_\_\_\_\_ (hundreds of years).

17. *Why does Barbara tell us the story about the well?*

She tells us the story to remind us that what we \_\_\_\_\_ might not be true.

Humans today \_\_\_\_\_ that there is enough \_\_\_\_\_. But just like the well, this is an \_\_\_\_\_.

**RESPONSE TO GUIDING QUESTION(S):**

*How and why does Barbara Kingsolver describe places on Earth that have too little water for humans to live without struggle?*

Response: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## WATER NOTE-CATCHER

<p><b>INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:</b> Work with a partner. Use your water note-catcher to write down key, or important, information from the text. You will write down main ideas and some details, or specific information, about each main idea. You can use information from your Thinking Log. Some information is already filled in for you.</p>	
<p><b>WORD BANK:</b> attention, <b>believe</b>, changing, eight, <b>evidence</b>, <b>microcosm</b>, <b>observe</b>, option, <b>region</b>, water, weather, <b>wells</b></p>	
<p><b>Summary from yesterday:</b> Humans are _____ our world and the _____. We must start paying _____.</p>	
<p><b>Main idea:</b> Bajo Piura is an example of a _____ that doesn't have sufficient _____.</p>	<p><b>Supporting details:</b> People who live there have to walk _____ hours a day to collect _____. People who live there are trying to dig _____ for water. But they have not found _____ yet.</p>
<p><b>Main idea:</b> Bajo Piura is _____ of life on earth. Living in Bajo Piura is an example of living on earth.</p>	<p><b>Supporting details:</b> Everyone needs _____. Like the people in Bajo Piura, if we cannot find _____, there is nowhere else to go. We do not have another _____, or choice.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> People do not always look for _____, or proof, of what they _____. But we can _____ the truth. In this passage we can _____ that we can run out of water.</p>	

## FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

Work with your class to analyze an important sentence(s) from the text.

- Every sentence has someone or something that *does* something. First you determine this *who or what*.
- Every sentence has something that they *do or did*. Figure that part out next. Now you have the most important parts of the sentence in place.
- Then you will figure out what they did the action *to or for*.
- Finally, you will write the descriptive details.
- Write your answers in the spaces below.
- When you are done, write the sentence again in your own words.

You may want to use definitions from the glossed text in the sections above.

### **Functional Analysis:**

*Five years later they are still bringing up dry sand, scratching out their fate as a microcosm of life on this planet.*

WHO (Actor): \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT HAPPENED (Action): *are still* \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT: *dry* \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTOR : [they are] \_\_\_\_\_ *their fate*

DESCRIPTOR (As What): *as a microcosm of life on this planet*

DETAIL (When): \_\_\_\_\_ *later*

What the sentence says:	My own words:
five years later	_____
they	<i>the men in Bajo Piura</i>
are still bringing up	_____
dry sand	_____
[They are] scratching out their fate	<i>The men in Bajo Piura are</i> _____
as a microcosm of life on this planet	<i>They are an example of</i> _____

**Write the sentence in your own words and then explain it to your partner.**

*It is* \_\_\_\_\_ *later.*

*The men in Bajo Piura are still* \_\_\_\_\_

*The men in Bajo Piura are* \_\_\_\_\_

*They are an example of* \_\_\_\_\_



## EXIT TICKET

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

This graphic organizer will help you keep track of information about water for all of the readings. Each day you will write down new information from each reading.

- First, write new information you have learned about global water sustainability.
- Next, write what else you want to learn about water sustainability.

**Think about what we have learned so far. What are new things you learned about *global* water sustainability?**

Some people live in very dry regions because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

They have to work very hard to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**What else are you wondering about water sustainability?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix: Glossary

Word	Definition	Example
adapt	become adjusted to new conditions	The desert was beyond the limits of endurance for anything but sparse stands of the deep-rooted <i>Prosopis pallida</i> , arguably nature's most arid- <b>adapted</b> tree.
beleaguered	bothered with difficulties	I wondered how long these <b>beleaguered</b> people would last before they'd had enough of their water woes and moved somewhere else.
believe	think something is true	Western civilization was in no great hurry to give up this folklore; astronomers <b>believed</b> it for centuries, but a few of them eventually thought to test it and had their illusions dashed by simple observation.
collect	gather or get something	But milking goats is hard to work into her schedule when she, and every other woman she knows, must walk about eight hours a day to <b>collect</b> water.
desertification	when land becomes desert, usually because of drought, deforestation, or unsustainable agriculture	In Bajo Piura people exacerbate <b>desertification</b> by cutting anything living for firewood.
disperse	scatter or disperse	Peruvian conservationists were guiding the population into herding goats, which eat the protein-rich pods of the native mesquite and <b>disperse</b> its seeds over the desert.
economic	having to do with money	They are <b>economic</b> refugees, looking for land that costs nothing.

Word	Definition	Example
El Niño	a weather pattern caused by a warm ocean current; it can cause terrible weather	Between January and March it might get close to an inch of rain, depending on the whims of <b>El Niño</b> .
endemic	common to a region; native	The Piura Desert is home to many <b>endemic</b> forms of thorny life.
eventually	in the end; finally	A few astronomers <b>eventually</b> thought to test it and had their illusions dashed by simple observation.
evidence	facts; proof	People do not always look for <b>evidence</b> , or proof
exacerbate	make a problem or bad situation worse	People <b>exacerbate</b> desertification by cutting anything living for firewood.
exhume (exhumed)	dig up	A dozen hopeful men let me inspect their work, which so far had yielded only a mountain of <b>exhumed</b> sand, dry as dust.
folklore	traditional beliefs, customs, and stories	Western civilization was in no great hurry to give up this <b>folklore</b> and astronomers believed it for centuries.
Holocene	recent geographical history	The Bajo Piura Valley is a great bowl of the driest <b>Holocene</b> sands I've ever gotten in my shoes.
home in (homing in)	move towards a target or goal	A salmon that runs into a dam when <b>homing in</b> on her natal stream cannot make other plans.
illusion	a fantasy or belief in something that isn't true	A few astronomers eventually thought to test it and had their <b>illusions</b> dashed by simple observation.
innovative	new and creative	What brought me there, as a journalist, was an <b>innovative</b> reforestation project.

Word	Definition	Example
inspect	look at something carefully	A dozen hopeful men let me <b>inspect</b> their work, which so far had yielded only a mountain of exhumed sand, dry as dust.
limit	boundary	For hours we passed through white-crusteD fields ruined by years of irrigation and then into eye-burning valleys beyond the <b>limits</b> of endurance.
microcosm	a small system or place that is very much like the larger system	Five years later they are still bringing up dry sand, scratching out their fate as a <b>microcosm</b> of life on this planet.
natal	native; place where you were born	A salmon that runs into a dam when homing in on her <b>natal</b> stream cannot make other plans.
observation	the ability to notice things, especially significant details	A few astronomers eventually thought to test it and had their illusions dashed by simple <b>observation</b> .
perseverance	continuing to do things, even if it is very difficult	I could not fathom this kind of <b>perseverance</b> and wondered how long these beleaguered people would last before they'd had enough of their water woes and moved somewhere else.
project	an activity that takes effort	What brought me there, as a journalist, was an innovative reforestation <b>project</b> .
reforestation	plant new trees in an area that used to have trees	What brought me there, as a journalist, was an innovative <b>reforestation</b> project.
region	an area of the world	Profiles of this eco- <b>region</b> describe it as dry to drier, and Bajo Piura on its southern edge is what anyone would call driest.

Word	Definition	Example
remarkable (remarkably)	surprising	<b>Remarkably</b> , some scattered families of people live in this desert.
unprofessional	not acting within the standards, or what is normal, for a profession or job	I looked down that black hole, then turned and climbed the sand mound to hide my <b>unprofessional</b> tears.
well	a deep hole dug in the ground to get water	Their husbands were digging a <b>well</b> nearby.
yield	give forth	A dozen hopeful men let me inspect their work, which so far had <b>yielded</b> only a mountain of exhumed sand, dry as dust.