

Misplaced Seed Tray

TIME MANAGEMENT · HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE

Ximena lifts a watering can from the pea trellis and finds a seed tray underneath. Someone set the tray beside the compost bin instead of the greenhouse bench. Her group already agreed to tidy tools, cover one soil row, and check the hose. The garden gate will be locked after the work day, so half-finished jobs matter. She can handle the misplaced tray first, or finish the planned garden jobs first. The wheelbarrow with the squeaky handle is parked beside the herb bed.

> **Add the minutes and decide whether all jobs fit; if not, choose one job Ximena should leave for the next work day.**

TASK	MINUTES
Carry the seed tray from beside the compost bin to the greenhouse bench and brush soil off the flat.	8
Move the wheelbarrow away from the herb bed path and return the mulch bag to the shed.	9
Spread straw over the open soil row near the tomato cages.	7
Rinse two trowels, coil the hose, and set both by the tool rack.	10
Check that the drip line is not pinned under the pea trellis.	5

Time available: 30 minutes

> **Answer:** 39 minutes — they do not fit

Think about it: Which task would create the most trouble if left unfinished, and what makes it harder to postpone?

TEACHER NOTE

The total is 39 minutes, so the jobs do not fit into 30 minutes. A workable choice must leave at least 9 minutes, so the 9-minute wheelbarrow job or the 10-minute rinse-and-coil job fits the math. A strong response explains the practical tradeoff, such as keeping the misplaced seed tray safe or preventing an open soil row from drying out.

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