Life Along the Delta

Trace how place and movement shape daily life

SS24.7.2 "Analyze how human interaction with the environment, location, movement, place, and region affect cultural, economic, and social conditions for those living in a geographic area."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways the delta's setting shapes work, and circle one way a change in travel affects community life. Number an environmental change 1 and a response to it 2.

Changing Life in the Mekong Delta

1. At dawn in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, boats carry fruit through a web of rivers and canals. The delta lies near the sea, where the Mekong River spreads into many channels before reaching the coast. Warm weather and river water help farmers grow rice and fruit. Waterways also let traders move crops from farms to towns without crossing every muddy field. This location links villages to markets, but it also means that daily travel and work depend on changing water levels.

2. In some delta towns, sellers meet on the water at floating markets. They hang samples of produce from tall poles so buyers in passing boats can see what is for sale. These markets are more than places to earn money: neighbors trade news while they bargain. Roads and bridges now carry more goods in parts of the delta, so some traders use trucks instead of boats. As travel changes, certain floating markets have become smaller, and families may meet customers in new places.

3. Living near the coast brings another challenge. During dry months, less river water may flow toward the sea, allowing salty seawater to push farther into delta waterways. Salt can damage rice fields and make some fresh water sources harder to use. Farmers may change when they plant, grow crops that tolerate salt, or store rainwater. Those choices affect income and household routines. Because canals connect many communities, a change in water conditions can reach people far beyond the shoreline.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the delta's rivers help farmers earn money? Use two details from the passage.

2. How do floating markets affect both trade and neighbors' relationships?

3. How have roads and bridges changed where some delta families do business?

4. How can salty water change both farmers' work and life at home?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a mountain town where a steep ridge separates homes from a weekly market. A new tunnel opens through the ridge. In four sentences, explain one possible effect on business, one effect on social or cultural life, and one possible drawback.

ANSWER KEY

Life Along the Delta

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways the delta's setting shapes work, and circle one way a change in travel affects community life. Number an environmental change 1 and a response to it 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the delta's rivers help farmers earn money? Use two details from the passage.	**River water helps farmers grow rice and fruit, and waterways let traders carry those crops to markets.**
2	How do floating markets affect both trade and neighbors' relationships?	**Sellers earn money by trading produce, while neighbors share news as they bargain.**
3	How have roads and bridges changed where some delta families do business?	**Some traders use trucks instead of boats. Certain floating markets have become smaller, and families may meet customers in new places.**
4	How can salty water change both farmers' work and life at home?	**Salt can damage rice fields and make fresh water harder to use. Farmers may change planting times or crops, or store rainwater, affecting income and household routines.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The tunnel would let farmers take vegetables to the weekly market more quickly, so they might sell fresher food. Families on opposite sides of the ridge could visit one another more often. More visitors might join the town's market-day meals and music. However, extra traffic could make the streets near homes less safe.

Accept other passage-supported cause-and-effect explanations for Parts 1 and 2. For Part 3, look for four sentences that connect the tunnel to business and social or cultural life, plus a plausible drawback.