Beyond the Ice

Read geographic clues to explain Ice Age choices

SS24.7.4b "Use maps to identify how climate and weather patterns, including the Ice Ages, affect the ways humans adapt within different geographic locations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage. Underline each location, circle its climate or weather clues, and number the ways people adapted there so you can connect places to choices.

Life Along the Ice

1. About 20,000 years ago, thick ice covered much of northern Europe. On a map, this icy region would lie above the open plains of central Europe. People did not live on the ice sheets. Instead, some groups stayed on the cold, dry plains south of the ice. Reindeer traveled across these plains, so hunters followed their herds. People used animal skins for warm clothing and made shelters they could carry or rebuild. Location mattered: living near the ice meant coping with freezing winds and traveling food sources.

2. Farther south, the Mediterranean coast had a milder climate, even during the Ice Age. Its shore lay well below the ice-covered north on a map. Groups there could gather shellfish along the water and catch fish. They could also collect plants when those plants were in season. Coastal food sources did not require following reindeer herds across the inland plains. But weather still mattered: strong storms could make fishing dangerous, and dry seasons could reduce plant foods. People adjusted when and where they looked for food.

3. By about 11,500 years ago, the climate was warming, though change happened at different speeds in different places. Ice sheets retreated northward, and plants spread into some areas that had been too cold. Animal ranges shifted too. On a map, the northern edge of land where people could live moved farther north over time. Hunters could follow animals into newly open areas, while coastal groups could continue using the sea. This did not make every place alike: an inland plain still offered different resources from a coast.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. On a map, where would you look for the cold plains where people wore animal skins? Explain why skins helped there.

2. Why did hunters on the central European plains follow reindeer instead of staying in one place?

3. How might a storm change a group's food choices on the Mediterranean coast?

4. As ice retreated northward, where might hunters move on a map? What change made that move possible?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a group travels north from the Mediterranean coast after the ice retreats. Draw a north-up map showing the coast, central plains, newly open northern land, and the group's route. Label one food plan for the coast and a different one for the plains, with a passage clue explaining each choice.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Ice

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.4b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage. Underline each location, circle its climate or weather clues, and number the ways people adapted there so you can connect places to choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	On a map, where would you look for the cold plains where people wore animal skins? Explain why skins helped there.	**On the plains of central Europe, south of the northern ice. Animal skins helped people stay warm in the freezing winds.**
2	Why did hunters on the central European plains follow reindeer instead of staying in one place?	**Reindeer traveled across the plains, so hunters moved to keep reaching that food source.**
3	How might a storm change a group's food choices on the Mediterranean coast?	**A storm could make fishing dangerous, so the group might gather shellfish or seasonal plants instead.**
4	As ice retreated northward, where might hunters move on a map? What change made that move possible?	**They might move north into newly open areas. Retreating ice allowed plants to spread there, and animal ranges shifted.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A north arrow points up. The Mediterranean coast is at the bottom, the central plains are in the middle, and newly open northern land is at the top. A route arrow runs north through all three places. Coast: catch fish because the shore provides access to the sea. Plains: follow animal herds because food animals travel across open land.

Accept maps with the three locations in the correct north-to-south order and a route leading north. Food plans should fit each location and cite a matching clue from the passage.