Where People Settle

Climate, resources, and the choices that shape migration

SS24.HG.10 "Describe patterns of settlement in different regions of the world. 10a Evaluate the impact of long-term climate shifts and resource usage on human migration and settlement patterns."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline climate changes, circle choices people make about land or water, and number the places people move to or remain. Use your marks to trace how these factors shape settlement.

Staying, Moving, and Adapting

1. Across the Sahel, a broad belt south of the Sahara, many communities depend on seasonal rain for crops and pasture. Rainfall has varied over decades, and rising temperatures can dry soils faster. When a series of dry years reduces harvests, some households move toward towns or wetter farming areas; others send one member to earn money elsewhere. At the same time, heavy grazing and cutting trees for fuel can leave soil exposed, making dry spells more damaging in some places. Migration is not the only response: farmers may change crops or protect soil to keep using their land.

2. In coastal Bangladesh, low-lying villages face rising sea levels and saltwater reaching some fields and drinking-water sources. A family whose rice field turns too salty may seek work in a nearby town or in Dhaka. Yet people also remain, especially when homes, jobs, and family networks are rooted in the coast. Some farmers grow salt-tolerant crops or raise fish instead of rice. Embankments can protect fields from tides, but poorly planned barriers may trap rainwater and increase flooding. Settlement changes therefore reflect both a changing climate and decisions about how land and water are used.

3. These two regions show why a climate trend does not draw a simple arrow from one home to another. In the Sahel, less reliable water can spread households between rural farms and towns as people seek wages. On Bangladesh's coast, salty fields can pull workers toward cities, while new farming choices can help others remain. Resource decisions can either limit harm or make it worse. Money matters too: moving costs money, and city housing may be expensive. To judge a settlement pattern, ask where people can find usable water, work, and safe places to live.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can rainfall changes and land use work together to change where people settle in the Sahel?

2. Why might two households on Bangladesh's coast respond differently when saltwater reaches their fields?

3. Compare the settlement shifts described in the Sahel and coastal Bangladesh. What pressure links them?

4. Choose one resource-use decision from each region. How could each decision make staying in place easier or harder?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine an inland valley where summer river flow falls over decades as nearby glaciers shrink, while farms use more river water for irrigation. In four sentences, predict a settlement change, explain how the climate shift and water use each contribute, and describe one choice that might help some residents stay.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HG.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline climate changes, circle choices people make about land or water, and number the places people move to or remain. Use your marks to trace how these factors shape settlement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can rainfall changes and land use work together to change where people settle in the Sahel?	**Dry years reduce harvests, while heavy grazing or tree cutting can expose soil and worsen the damage. Some households then move toward towns or wetter farming areas.**
2	Why might two households on Bangladesh's coast respond differently when saltwater reaches their fields?	**One may seek work in a town or Dhaka after losing rice production. Another may remain by growing salt-tolerant crops or raising fish, especially if it has strong ties to the coast.**
3	Compare the settlement shifts described in the Sahel and coastal Bangladesh. What pressure links them?	**Some Sahel households move toward towns or wetter farming areas, while some coastal Bangladesh households move toward towns or Dhaka. Both shifts are linked to less usable water for established farming.**
4	Choose one resource-use decision from each region. How could each decision make staying in place easier or harder?	**Protecting soil could help Sahel farmers keep using their land. Growing salt-tolerant crops could help coastal Bangladesh farmers remain despite saltwater.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Some families may leave farms and settle near towns with more reliable water and jobs. As glaciers shrink, they may supply less summer water to the river. Expanding irrigation takes more of the remaining river water and can deepen shortages downstream. Farmers could grow crops that need less water, which might help some households stay in the valley.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons and resource choices. For Part 3, accept a plausible settlement prediction that separately explains the climate shift and irrigation use, plus a choice that could help residents remain.