

Land Shapes, Life

See how physical features affect the ways people live.

SS.3.G.3 "Physical Systems"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each physical feature. Circle words that tell how people use that feature or prepare for its effects.

Water, Land, and People

- ① Near the border of the United States and Canada, the Great Lakes hold a huge amount of fresh water. The lakes are Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. Cities grew beside them because people could get water to drink and use. Ships carry goods across the lakes. People also fish, swim, and visit beaches there.
- ② Along some ocean coasts, hurricanes can bring heavy rain, strong winds, and storm surge. Storm surge is ocean water pushed onto land by a storm. People may build homes on higher ground or follow evacuation plans. Higher ground can reduce flooding from storm surge and heavy rain. It does not stop a hurricane, so communities also prepare for wind and power outages.
- ③ In the Rocky Mountains, winter snow melts when spring arrives. The meltwater flows into streams and rivers. Farms and towns downstream can use this water, but fast, high water may cause flooding. Forests on mountain slopes help hold soil in place. When people cut too many trees, rain can wash loose soil into rivers below.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do the Great Lakes help cities near them?

2 What are two ways people use the Great Lakes besides getting water?

3 Why can higher ground be useful for people who live near an ocean coast?

4 What can happen when people cut too many trees on mountain slopes?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a physical feature near where you live or one you know. Write three sentences that name the feature, tell one way it helps people, and describe one challenge people may need to prepare for.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each physical feature. Circle words that tell how people use that feature or prepare for its effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the Great Lakes help cities near them?	They provide fresh water that people can drink and use.
2	What are two ways people use the Great Lakes besides getting water?	Any two: ships carry goods, people fish, people swim, or people visit beaches.
3	Why can higher ground be useful for people who live near an ocean coast?	It can reduce flooding from hurricane-related storm surge and heavy rain.
4	What can happen when people cut too many trees on mountain slopes?	Rain can wash loose soil into rivers below.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A river near my town gives people water and a place to fish. Farmers can use its water for crops. After heavy rain, people prepare for flooding near the river.

Accept passage-supported wording for the short answers. For the open response, accept any accurate physical feature with one benefit and one related challenge or preparation.