

Floods and Places

Use location and physical features to understand a news event.

SS.5.G.4.1 "Use geographic knowledge and skills when discussing current events."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle every place name, underline each physical feature, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside information showing location, a cause of flooding, or a response to the emergency.

Flooding in Southern Brazil

- ① In May 2024, days of heavy rain caused major floods in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil's southernmost state. The state lies near the borders of Argentina and Uruguay and reaches the Atlantic Ocean. Rivers rose quickly and spread across low-lying land. Porto Alegre, the state capital, sits beside Guaíba Lake, where floodwater covered streets and neighborhoods.
- ② Geography helped people understand the emergency. Maps showed which towns were cut off when highways and bridges flooded. Because the state is far from Brazil's northern cities, bringing supplies by road could take time. Porto Alegre's airport closed after water reached the area around it. Officials used location information to choose safer routes for rescue boats and trucks.
- ③ Geographic questions also guided recovery. Leaders needed to know where people lived, which places remained underwater, and how rivers connected towns. They compared flood areas with roads, hospitals, and shelters. This information helped them decide where to send help first. It also showed why rebuilding in low places may require stronger flood planning.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Use two details from the passage to describe where Rio Grande do Sul is located.

2 How did rivers and low-lying land help make the flooding worse?

3 Why could delivering supplies by road take time during this emergency? Use a location detail from the passage.

4 How could maps help officials decide where to send help first?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a recent news event you know about. Write three sentences that name its location, describe one physical feature or location detail, and explain how that geographic information could help people respond.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle every place name, underline each physical feature, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside information showing location, a cause of flooding, or a response to the emergency. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use two details from the passage to describe where Rio Grande do Sul is located.	It is Brazil's southernmost state, near Argentina and Uruguay, and it reaches the Atlantic Ocean.
2	How did rivers and low-lying land help make the flooding worse?	Rising rivers spread floodwater across low-lying land.
3	Why could delivering supplies by road take time during this emergency? Use a location detail from the passage.	Flooded highways and bridges blocked routes, and Rio Grande do Sul is far from Brazil's northern cities.
4	How could maps help officials decide where to send help first?	Maps could show where people lived, which towns were cut off or underwater, and where roads, hospitals, and shelters were located.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In January 2025, wildfires burned in Los Angeles County, California, beside the Pacific Ocean. Dry hills, strong Santa Ana winds, and neighborhoods built near wildland helped the fires spread and put people at risk. Knowing where highways, hills, and coastal communities are can help emergency crews choose evacuation routes and send supplies.

Accept equivalent location descriptions and geographic cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For Your Turn, accept any accurately described recent event that includes a location, a relevant geographic detail, and a reasonable explanation of how the information supports a response.