

Shared Water Choices

Use geographic evidence to analyze a regional resource issue.

SS.5.G.4 "Uses of Geography"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how geographic information helps people study the water issue, and number them 1, 2, and 3.

A River Connects Regions

- ① The Colorado River watershed includes mountain streams, desert lands, farms, cities, and tribal lands in the southwestern United States. Water flows downstream from high-elevation snowpack toward reservoirs and communities. In dry years, less snow melts into the river. This creates a regional issue because people in several states depend on the same water supply for homes, crops, and ecosystems.
- ② Geographers studying this issue use maps to locate the watershed, reservoirs, farms, and cities. They compare satellite images showing shrinking shorelines with measurements of snowpack and river flow. A map's scale helps them judge distances between water sources and users. This evidence shows that an upstream drought can affect places far downstream across state borders.
- ③ Different groups may suggest different responses. A city may ask residents to use less water, while farmers may seek efficient irrigation to protect crop production. Tribal nations may stress water rights and the health of river habitats. By using geographic evidence, leaders can see where shortages are greatest and consider how one decision may affect other places in the watershed.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

Why is the Colorado River water problem a regional issue?

2

Name two geographic tools or data sources from the passage. What can geographers learn from each one?

3

What does an upstream drought affecting places far downstream show about a watershed?

4

How might a city's view of the water issue differ from the view of tribal nations?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a regional resource or environmental issue, such as flooding, water shortage, or habitat loss. Complete all three rows with geographic evidence, a tool or data source, and how each piece of evidence could help people analyze or respond to the issue.

REGIONAL ISSUE	GEOGRAPHIC FACT	TOOL OR DATA SOURCE	HOW IT HELPS ANALYZE OR RESPOND

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how geographic information helps people study the water issue, and number them 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the Colorado River water problem a regional issue?	People in several states depend on the same water supply, and dry years reduce the water flowing in the river.
2	Name two geographic tools or data sources from the passage. What can geographers learn from each one?	Maps can locate the watershed, reservoirs, farms, and cities. Satellite images can show shrinking shorelines. Snowpack and river-flow measurements show how much water is available.
3	What does an upstream drought affecting places far downstream show about a watershed?	Places in a watershed are connected by flowing water. A drought upstream can reduce water available to people and ecosystems downstream.
4	How might a city's view of the water issue differ from the view of tribal nations?	A city may focus on asking residents to use less water. Tribal nations may focus on water rights and the health of river habitats.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

REGIONAL ISSUE	GEOGRAPHIC FACT	TOOL OR DATA SOURCE	HOW IT HELPS ANALYZE OR RESPOND
Coastal flooding	Low-elevation streets are near the bay.	Elevation map	Locate places that need flood protection.
Coastal flooding	High tides cover parts of the shoreline.	Tide gauge records	Plan when to close a flooded road.
Coastal flooding	Marshes lie between the bay and some homes.	Satellite image	Consider protecting marshes that can reduce wave energy.

Accept equivalent answers that use details from the passage and correctly connect locations, water flow, geographic tools, or viewpoints. For Part 3, accept reasonable regional issues if each row includes a relevant geographic fact, a suitable tool or data source, and a logical use of the evidence.