

Clues Across Cedar Grove

Use geographic tools to gather and compare evidence about a place.

SS.6.G.1.4 "Utilize tools geographers use to study the world."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each tool or source Maya uses, and underline the information each one helps her find. This will show how geographers combine evidence to study a place.

Studying a Flooded City

- ① When heavy rain flooded parts of Cedar Grove, a city planning team asked geographer Maya Ortiz to study where water had traveled. She began with a paper map. The map showed streets, a river, bridges, and the city boundary. Its legend explained the symbols, while its scale helped Maya estimate distances. Maya traced the flooded streets and noticed that many were close to Willow Creek. A map helped her locate places and compare how they were arranged.
- ② Next, Maya opened a digital map on a computer. She turned on a layer that showed land height. Colors on the layer revealed that low ground bordered the creek. A geographic information system, or GIS, can place layers of information together in one view. Maya compared the height layer with the flood locations she had marked. This comparison helped her see that water had collected in lower areas, not at every street near the creek.
- ③ To check whether the creek bank had changed, Maya examined satellite images taken in different years. The images showed a new parking lot where grass had once soaked up rain. She also collected rainfall totals from a weather website and interviewed residents during a field visit. Maya recorded each source in her report. She explained which evidence came from maps, images, data, and observations. Using more than one tool gave the planning team a clearer picture before it chose flood-safety actions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which map feature helped Maya estimate distances?

2 What did the land-height layer reveal about the ground near Willow Creek?

3 How did GIS help Maya study the flooding?

4 Name two nonmap tools or sources Maya used. Tell what information each one gave her.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A town wants to find out why puddles form around its playground after storms. Choose two geographic tools or sources you would use, tell what each would show, and explain how comparing them could help.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each tool or source Maya uses, and underline the information each one helps her find. This will show how geographers combine evidence to study a place. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which map feature helped Maya estimate distances?	The map scale helped Maya estimate distances.
2	What did the land-height layer reveal about the ground near Willow Creek?	It revealed that low ground bordered the creek.
3	How did GIS help Maya study the flooding?	GIS let Maya place layers together and compare land height with flood locations.
4	Name two nonmap tools or sources Maya used. Tell what information each one gave her.	Satellite images showed that a parking lot had replaced grass. A weather website provided rainfall totals.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would use a map with a scale to locate drains and measure their distances from wet spots. I would use a land-height layer to find low areas. Comparing the map and layer could show whether water gathers far from drains in low ground.

Accept any two appropriate geographic tools or sources, such as maps, GIS layers, satellite images, weather data, or field observations. The response should state useful information from each tool and explain how comparing the evidence could investigate the puddles.