

One City, Many Features

Identify how nature and people shape a place.

SS.6.G.2 "Understand physical and cultural characteristics of places."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline physical characteristics, circle cultural characteristics, and number one sentence that shows how people responded to a physical feature.

New Orleans Takes Shape

- ① New Orleans, Louisiana, sits beside the Mississippi River and near the Gulf of Mexico. Its low, flat land includes wetlands, bays, and narrow waterways called bayous. The city receives heavy rain and can face hurricanes, so flooding is a serious risk. Levees, pumps, and raised buildings help people manage water. These physical characteristics, features made by nature, affect where people build homes, travel, and work. They also make the port important because ships can move goods along the river.
- ② People have shaped New Orleans in ways that visitors can see and hear. Cultural characteristics are features created or shared by people. In New Orleans, music, food, celebrations, language, and building styles show the city's cultural history. Jazz developed in the city during the early twentieth century, shaped by African American musical traditions and other influences. During Mardi Gras, parades move through streets as people gather in neighborhoods. Many older homes have balconies and courtyards that reflect French and Spanish influences. Restaurants serve dishes such as gumbo, which combines several cooking traditions.
- ③ Physical and cultural characteristics can work together to give a place its identity. For example, the Mississippi River supports shipping, while the port provides jobs and connects New Orleans to other places. The river also brings flood danger, so people have built levees and raised some structures. Meanwhile, celebrations, music, and food bring people together and attract visitors. A complete description of New Orleans includes both the natural setting and the ways people have responded to it and built community traditions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two physical characteristics of New Orleans from the passage.

2 What cultural characteristics of New Orleans reflect French and Spanish influences?

3 How have people responded to the flood danger in New Orleans?

4 Explain one way a physical characteristic affects work or travel in New Orleans.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a real or imagined place. Write exactly four sentences that describe two physical characteristics and two cultural characteristics. In one sentence, explain how one physical characteristic affects something people do there.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline physical characteristics, circle cultural characteristics, and number one sentence that shows how people responded to a physical feature. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two physical characteristics of New Orleans from the passage.	Any two: the Mississippi River, nearby Gulf of Mexico, low and flat land, wetlands, bays, bayous, heavy rain, or hurricanes.
2	What cultural characteristics of New Orleans reflect French and Spanish influences?	Older homes with balconies and courtyards, or the city's building styles.
3	How have people responded to the flood danger in New Orleans?	They have built levees, used pumps, and raised buildings or structures.
4	Explain one way a physical characteristic affects work or travel in New Orleans.	The Mississippi River supports shipping. Ships move goods along the river, and the port provides jobs and connects the city to other places.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Harborview has a rocky shore and a cool, rainy climate. Pine forests grow on the hills above the town. Fish markets and an annual boat festival are cultural characteristics of Harborview. The shore gives people fish to sell, so it supports the markets.

Accept accurate physical features as natural features and cultural features as features created or shared by people. For the open response, accept any plausible place description that includes two of each type and a clear connection between a physical feature and human activity.