

Six Lenses, One Town

Use geography's six essential elements to study a coastal community.

SS.6.G.6.1 "Describe the Six Essential Elements of Geography (The World in Spatial Terms, Places and Regions, Physical Systems, Human Systems, Environment, The Uses of Geography) as the organizing framework for understanding the world and its people."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail for each essential element, then label it 1 through 6: World in Spatial Terms, Places and Regions, Physical Systems, Human Systems, Environment, and Uses of Geography.

Studying Bayhaven

- ① Geographers use six connected ideas to study a place and the people who live there. In Bayhaven, a town beside the Gulf of Mexico, they begin with the world in spatial terms. They locate the town by its latitude and longitude, compare distances, and notice that a highway links Bayhaven to nearby cities. This information shows where things are and how they are connected. It also helps people describe locations precisely instead of saying only that Bayhaven is near the coast.
- ② Next, geographers examine places and regions. Bayhaven is a place with a harbor, sandy beaches, and neighborhoods. It belongs to a larger coastal region where communities share warm summers and hurricane risks. Physical systems include the Gulf waters, tides, storms, and barrier islands. Human systems include fishing, tourism, roads, homes, and emergency services. Together, these systems shape how the town works each day and during storms. They also influence jobs, travel, and where people build homes.
- ③ Environment focuses on the relationship between people and the natural world. Bayhaven residents protect dunes that reduce wave damage, but building too close to the shore can remove plants and increase erosion. The uses of geography help leaders make decisions from this evidence. They can choose safer building sites, plan evacuation routes, and protect wetlands. Looking through all six elements gives a fuller picture than studying a storm, a road, or a neighborhood alone. Geography helps people understand present conditions and plan for future challenges.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What information in the passage helps geographers study Bayhaven in world spatial terms? Explain what that information shows.

2 How is Bayhaven described as both a place and part of a region?

3 Name one physical system and one human system in Bayhaven. How are they different?

4 How can studying Bayhaven's environment help leaders plan for the future? Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a place you know, such as a neighborhood, park, town, or shoreline. Fill in all six rows to show how each essential element helps you understand the place or make a future plan for it.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	DETAIL ABOUT YOUR PLACE	HOW IT HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND OR PLAN

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail for each essential element, then label it 1 through 6: World in Spatial Terms, Places and Regions, Physical Systems, Human Systems, Environment, and Uses of Geography. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What information in the passage helps geographers study Bayhaven in world spatial terms? Explain what that information shows.	Bayhaven's latitude and longitude, distances, and highway connection help locate it and show how it is connected to nearby cities.
2	How is Bayhaven described as both a place and part of a region?	As a place, Bayhaven has a harbor, sandy beaches, and neighborhoods. It is part of a coastal region whose communities share warm summers and hurricane risks.
3	Name one physical system and one human system in Bayhaven. How are they different?	A physical system is the Gulf waters, tides, storms, or barrier islands. A human system is fishing, tourism, roads, homes, or emergency services. Physical systems are natural, while human systems involve people and their activities.
4	How can studying Bayhaven's environment help leaders plan for the future? Use two details from the passage.	Leaders can use evidence about dunes, erosion, and wetlands to choose safer building sites, plan evacuation routes, and protect wetlands.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	DETAIL ABOUT YOUR PLACE	HOW IT HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND OR PLAN
World in Spatial Terms	Riverside Park is two blocks east of the library and beside the river.	This location helps visitors find the park and shows why river flooding matters.
Places and Regions	The park has ball fields and shade trees in a river-valley region.	Its features and region explain how people use it.
Physical Systems	The river rises after heavy rain, and wind moves soil from bare banks.	Knowing these processes helps people prepare for erosion.
Human Systems	Families use trails, and city workers maintain playgrounds and trash cans.	These activities show how people organize and use the park.
Environment	Trees provide shade, while visitors can harm plants by walking off trails.	Marked paths can protect plants and still allow recreation.
Uses of Geography	City leaders can compare flood-prone areas with trail locations.	They can move a planned picnic area to higher ground.

Accept equivalent passage-based details and explanations that correctly connect each element to Bayhaven. For the open task, accept any accurate six-element analysis of a real or imagined place, including a reasonable geography-based plan.