Mangroves and Neighbors

How an ecosystem and nearby people shape each other

SS.7.G.3 "Understand the relationships between the Earth's ecosystems and the populations that dwell within them."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show how the mangrove ecosystem supports or challenges nearby people. Circle details that show how people adapt to or affect the ecosystem.

Living Near the Sundarbans

1. Along the coast of Bangladesh, the Sundarbans is a vast mangrove ecosystem where rivers meet the Bay of Bengal. Salt water mixes with fresh water, and mangrove roots hold muddy soil in place. Fishing families live in nearby villages, not deep inside the protected forest. They catch fish and crabs in waterways and collect honey during a short season. The forest also reduces the force of some storm waves before they reach homes and fields.

2. Life near the Sundarbans requires people to adjust to changing water. Many families raise houses on higher ground because monsoon rains and cyclones can flood low areas. Fishers check tides before traveling, since channels may become too shallow or currents may become dangerous. Farmers grow rice where soil is less salty, but salt water pushed inland by storms can damage crops. When catches or harvests decline, some residents seek work in cities for part of the year.

3. The ecosystem depends on careful use as well. If too many trees are cut, roots cannot protect soil, and storms can erode riverbanks more easily. If fishing removes young fish, future fish populations may fall. Bangladesh limits access to certain forest areas and sets rules for fishing and honey collecting. These choices show a two-way relationship: the mangroves support nearby people, while people's decisions can protect or weaken the ecosystem that supports them over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What are two ways the Sundarbans supports nearby fishing families or villages?

2. Why do many families raise their homes on higher ground, and why do fishers check tides?

3. How can a storm affect farmers who live near the Sundarbans?

4. Explain how cutting too many mangrove trees could affect both the ecosystem and nearby people.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a coastal, forest, grassland, desert, or freshwater ecosystem. In 4 or 5 sentences, describe a population that lives nearby, one resource or challenge the ecosystem provides, one way people adapt, and one human choice that could affect the ecosystem.

ANSWER KEY

Mangroves and Neighbors

GRADE 7 · SS.7.G.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show how the mangrove ecosystem supports or challenges nearby people. Circle details that show how people adapt to or affect the ecosystem. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two ways the Sundarbans supports nearby fishing families or villages?	**It provides fish and crabs to catch, honey to collect, and protection from some storm waves.**
2	Why do many families raise their homes on higher ground, and why do fishers check tides?	**Families raise homes to reduce flooding from monsoon rains and cyclones. Fishers check tides because channels can become shallow or currents can become dangerous.**
3	How can a storm affect farmers who live near the Sundarbans?	**A storm can push salt water inland, making soil saltier and damaging rice crops.**
4	Explain how cutting too many mangrove trees could affect both the ecosystem and nearby people.	**Without enough tree roots, soil is less protected and storms can erode riverbanks more easily. This can increase dangers for nearby homes and fields.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a desert ecosystem, a farming community uses river water to grow dates and vegetables. Because rainfall is low, farmers store water and use drip irrigation. If they take too much water from the river, wetlands downstream can shrink and wildlife may lose habitat. Limiting water use can help the community and the ecosystem last.

Accept equivalent passage-based relationships and clear cause-and-effect explanations. For the open task, accept any accurate ecosystem example that includes all four required parts.