River Reconnected

Track a complex restoration story from problem to evidence.

12.P.EICC.3.d "Summarize and visualize sections of the text to maintain understanding. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in each paragraph that best states that section's main point. In the margin, write 1, 2, or 3 beside details that belong to the problem, the response, or the results, so you can visualize the sequence.

Restoring the Elwha River

1. On Washington State's Olympic Peninsula, the Elwha River once carried salmon from the Strait of Juan de Fuca far into the mountains. Two hydroelectric dams, completed in 1913 and 1927, changed that route. The dams supplied electricity to a nearby mill, but neither included fish passage. Salmon and steelhead could no longer reach most of their upstream spawning habitat. Over decades, the river also dropped sand and gravel behind the dams instead of delivering those materials to its estuary. By the early twenty-first century, several salmon runs had shrunk sharply.

2. After years of study and negotiation, Congress authorized the dams' removal in 1992, provided that federal agencies determined removal was the best way to restore the ecosystem. Crews began dismantling the structures in 2011. They removed the smaller Elwha Dam first and then lowered Glines Canyon Dam in stages, finishing in 2014. Removing the dams did not instantly return the river to its former condition. Stored sediment moved downstream, making the water cloudy and reshaping channels. Biologists monitored fish, water quality, beaches, and plants while the river adjusted.

3. The river's recovery produced gradual, measurable results. Salmon began entering stretches of the watershed that had been inaccessible for nearly a century, and some fish were documented upstream of the former dam sites. As sediment reached the coast, beaches near the river's mouth gained material that waves could redistribute. Restoration also required work beyond demolition: tribes, park staff, scientists, and local groups monitored habitat and supported recovery efforts. The project illustrates a useful reading pattern for complex change: identify the original problem, trace the actions taken, and note both immediate effects and longer-term evidence. That sequence helps a reader build a mental map instead of treating every fact as separate.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a one-sentence summary of paragraph 1 that includes both the dams' benefit and their environmental cost.

2. Give each paragraph a flowchart label of two to five words that shows the passage's sequence.

3. In a cause-and-effect diagram, which paragraph provides the linking action between the problem and the results? Explain why.

4. What two outcome details from paragraph 3 belong in the final box of a flowchart?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a three-box cause-and-effect flowchart for the passage. Give each box a title and two supporting details, then write a 50-70 word summary that uses your flowchart to explain the river's change over time.

ANSWER KEY

River Reconnected

GRADE 12 · 12.P.EICC.3.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that best states that section's main point. In the margin, write 1, 2, or 3 beside details that belong to the problem, the response, or the results, so you can visualize the sequence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a one-sentence summary of paragraph 1 that includes both the dams' benefit and their environmental cost.	**The Elwha dams supplied electricity, but they blocked salmon from upstream habitat and trapped sediment that would have reached the estuary.**
2	Give each paragraph a flowchart label of two to five words that shows the passage's sequence.	**Paragraph 1: Problem and damage. Paragraph 2: Removal and adjustment. Paragraph 3: Recovery and evidence.**
3	In a cause-and-effect diagram, which paragraph provides the linking action between the problem and the results? Explain why.	**Paragraph 2, because it describes the decision and work to remove the dams, which connects the earlier damage to the later recovery.**
4	What two outcome details from paragraph 3 belong in the final box of a flowchart?	**Salmon returned to previously inaccessible watershed sections, and beaches near the river's mouth gained sediment.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Box 1, Blocked River: dams generated electricity; fish could not reach upstream habitat. Box 2, Dam Removal: crews began work in 2011; both dams were removed by 2014. Box 3, Recovery Evidence: sediment reached coastal beaches; salmon entered blocked reaches. Two dams on the Elwha River generated power but cut salmon off from upstream habitat and trapped sediment. After federal authorization, crews removed both dams between 2011 and 2014, while scientists monitored changes. The river then carried sediment downstream, coastal beaches gained material, and salmon began returning to previously blocked reaches.

Accept equivalent section labels and summaries that preserve the sequence of damage, removal, and recovery. For the flowchart, accept accurate details placed in the appropriate stage and a 50-70 word summary that explains the connection among the stages.