Where Would You Settle?

Explore how Idaho's land and resources shaped communities.

4.SS.2.2 "Describe the physical regions of Idaho, identify major natural resources, and explain their impact on settlement."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one land feature in each region, circle one natural resource in each region, and draw an arrow from each circled resource to words that show how it affected settlement.

Three Parts of Idaho

1. Imagine traveling across Idaho from north to south. In northern Idaho, mountains rise beside deep lakes. Thick forests cover many slopes. Trees supplied wood for homes and sawmills, so workers and their families settled near forests. Silver and lead found in the mountains brought miners to the area. Towns grew where people could reach both the mines and routes for moving supplies.

2. Farther south, central Idaho has high mountains and narrow valleys. Streams cut through the land, and forests grow on many slopes. Gold in some mountain areas drew miners who built camps near streams. Water from the streams helped people live and work there. Steep land made large farms difficult, so many early settlements stayed small and close to routes through the valleys.

3. In southern Idaho, the Snake River Plain spreads across a wide, flat, mostly dry area. Much of its soil formed from volcanic rock. The Snake River provided water, but farmers needed canals to bring it to their fields. With irrigation, people could grow crops such as potatoes on the plain. Farms and towns grew where water could reach the land.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did forests and mountain minerals affect work and settlement in northern Idaho?

2. Why did miners build camps near streams in central Idaho, and why did many settlements stay small?

3. How did people use a natural resource to make farms and towns possible on the Snake River Plain?

4. Compare the land in central Idaho and on the Snake River Plain. How did each region's land shape settlement?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your family can settle in northern Idaho or on the Snake River Plain long ago. Write four sentences that choose a region and a job, explain how its land and a natural resource support your choice, name a challenge in the other region, and tell how you would handle a challenge in your chosen region.

ANSWER KEY

Where Would You Settle?

GRADE 4 · 4.SS.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one land feature in each region, circle one natural resource in each region, and draw an arrow from each circled resource to words that show how it affected settlement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did forests and mountain minerals affect work and settlement in northern Idaho?	**Trees supplied wood for homes and sawmills, drawing workers and families near forests. Silver and lead drew miners, and towns grew near mines and supply routes.**
2	Why did miners build camps near streams in central Idaho, and why did many settlements stay small?	**Streams supplied water for people living and working near gold deposits. Steep land made large farms difficult, so many settlements stayed small.**
3	How did people use a natural resource to make farms and towns possible on the Snake River Plain?	**Farmers brought water from the Snake River to fields through canals. Irrigation helped crops grow, and farms and towns grew where water could reach the land.**
4	Compare the land in central Idaho and on the Snake River Plain. How did each region's land shape settlement?	**Central Idaho's steep mountains made large farms difficult, so many settlements stayed small. The wide, dry Snake River Plain supported farms and towns where people brought water to the land.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would settle with my family in northern Idaho and find work cutting trees for wood. Its mountains have forests that supply trees for sawmills, so we could live near other workers. The Snake River Plain is dry, and a farm there would need canal water. Because mountain travel can be hard, we would settle near a route that helps us move wood to town.

Accept accurate links between a region's land or resources and where people lived or worked. For the open task, look for a choice, a supported job, a challenge in the other region, and a sensible plan for a challenge in the chosen region.