Land Shapes Work

How Idaho's regions support different kinds of work

4.SS.3.6 "Describe how the geographic features of Idaho have determined the economic base of Idaho's regions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two land or water features in each paragraph. Draw a line from each feature to a job or business it helps support.

A Place for Each Kind of Work

1. On the Snake River Plain in southern Idaho, wide, fairly flat land leaves room for large fields. The land gets little rain, but canals bring water from the Snake River to farms. With water for irrigation, farmers grow potatoes, sugar beets, and other crops. Food companies build nearby plants to wash, cut, freeze, and pack crops, so farming also creates jobs beyond the fields.

2. In Idaho's northern Panhandle, thick forests cover many hills. Trees provide wood for sawmills, which cut logs into boards for building. Some businesses make other wood products, too. Lakes and forest trails draw visitors who rent cabins, buy meals, or hire guides. Because much of the land is hilly and wooded, it is harder to make the large, open crop fields found on the Snake River Plain.

3. Central Idaho has high mountains and steep river canyons. These places are hard to turn into wide fields, but they give visitors places to hike, ski, and raft. Guides, inns, and restaurants earn money when people come to explore. Some mountain areas also contain valuable minerals, and mines have provided jobs there. Across Idaho, the land and water help shape which kinds of work can grow in each region.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why do farms on the Snake River Plain need water from the Snake River?

2. Why do sawmills make sense in Idaho's northern Panhandle?

3. How do central Idaho's mountains and river canyons help people earn money?

4. Why is it easier to make large crop fields on the Snake River Plain than in the northern Panhandle?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine an Idaho town on a windy, open plateau, far from a river, where little rain falls. In three sentences, name a business that fits this place, explain how the land or wind supports it, and explain why a large crop farm might be difficult there.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.SS.3.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two land or water features in each paragraph. Draw a line from each feature to a job or business it helps support. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why do farms on the Snake River Plain need water from the Snake River?	**The plain gets little rain, so farms use river water to irrigate their crops.**
2	Why do sawmills make sense in Idaho's northern Panhandle?	**The Panhandle's thick forests provide trees that sawmills can cut into boards.**
3	How do central Idaho's mountains and river canyons help people earn money?	**They attract visitors who hike, ski, and raft, bringing customers to guides, inns, and restaurants.**
4	Why is it easier to make large crop fields on the Snake River Plain than in the northern Panhandle?	**The plain has wide, fairly flat land, while much of the Panhandle is hilly and wooded.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A company could build wind turbines and sell the electricity they make. Strong wind on the open plateau would turn the turbines. A large crop farm might be difficult because little rain falls and the town is far from a river for irrigation.

Accept other realistic businesses if the student explains how a stated feature supports the business and why little rain and distance from a river make a large crop farm difficult.