Places, Different Priorities

How people view environmental choices in three regions

6-9.WG.2.15 "Describe various views that affect environmental issues in regions throughout the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each group's reason for its view. Circle one environmental effect mentioned in each region.

Who Depends on This Place?

1. Along the coast of Bangladesh, mangrove forests stand between villages and the Bay of Bengal. Their tangled roots slow waves and give young fish shelter. Some families want to protect and restore mangroves because storms can flood homes and fishers need healthy fish populations. Other families support clearing some coastal land for shrimp ponds, which can bring income. They may argue that jobs are urgent when families need food and school fees. Both groups depend on the coast, but they weigh storm safety, wildlife, and earnings differently.

2. In Brazil's Amazon region, roads can make it easier to move cattle and crops to buyers. Some ranchers say opening more land gives families and workers a way to earn money. Many Indigenous communities and conservation groups oppose further forest clearing. They point to forest plants and animals, and to forests' role in storing carbon and helping rain form. For communities whose homes and traditions are tied to the forest, clearing can also threaten their way of life. Views differ partly because people experience the costs and benefits of land use differently.

3. In the Arctic, warming has reduced sea ice, making some shipping routes easier to use during parts of the year. Shipping companies may see shorter trips as a chance to save time and fuel. Some Arctic residents and scientists worry that more ships bring noise, pollution, and a greater risk of oil spills. Sea ice also matters to animals and to people who travel or hunt on it. A shorter trip can benefit a business far away while adding risks for communities near the route. No single view represents every Arctic resident.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might two families on the Bangladesh coast disagree about clearing land for shrimp ponds?

2. How do ranchers and people who oppose forest clearing view land use in the Amazon differently?

3. Why might a shipping company and an Arctic resident view a new shipping route differently?

4. Choose two regions in the passage. How does a need to earn money or save resources affect views about an environmental issue in each?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a mountain valley community deciding whether to build a dam on its river. In four or five sentences, describe two groups' different views, connect each view to a possible environmental effect, and ask one question the community should investigate before deciding.

ANSWER KEY

Places, Different Priorities

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.2.15

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each group's reason for its view. Circle one environmental effect mentioned in each region. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might two families on the Bangladesh coast disagree about clearing land for shrimp ponds?	**A family seeking income may support shrimp ponds, while a family concerned about storm safety and fish populations may want to keep the mangroves.**
2	How do ranchers and people who oppose forest clearing view land use in the Amazon differently?	**Some ranchers see cleared land as a way to earn money. Many Indigenous communities and conservation groups see clearing as a threat to the forest and, for some communities, their way of life.**
3	Why might a shipping company and an Arctic resident view a new shipping route differently?	**A shipping company may value shorter trips that save time and fuel. An Arctic resident may worry about noise, pollution, oil spills, or effects on animals and travel.**
4	Choose two regions in the passage. How does a need to earn money or save resources affect views about an environmental issue in each?	**For example, some Bangladesh families support shrimp ponds for income despite the loss of mangroves. Arctic shipping companies may favor new routes to save time and fuel despite risks to nearby communities.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A local energy group may support the dam because it could produce electricity without burning fossil fuels. This could reduce air pollution from power generation. Fishers may oppose the dam because it could block fish from moving along the river. Fewer migrating fish could hurt the river ecosystem and fishing families. Before deciding, the community should ask whether fish can still move past the dam.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons in question 4. For the open task, accept plausible groups and environmental effects, including effects beyond those in the sample.