Climate Shapes Lives

Trace how location and climate affect daily life.

6-9.WG.2.4 "Locate, map, and describe the climate of regions throughout the world and analyze their impact on human activity and living conditions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline clues that locate each region, circle clues about its climate, and number one effect on people's lives in each region 1, 2, and 3. Use your marks to connect place, climate, and daily life.

Three Regions, Three Ways of Living

1. On a globe, find the equator crossing northern South America. Much of the Amazon Basin lies near that line, mainly in Brazil and neighboring countries. Its tropical rainforest climate stays warm all year, with frequent, heavy rain. Rivers swell during rainy months, and thick forest covers much of the land. Many communities use boats to move people and goods where roads are scarce. Rain supports crops such as cassava, but high water can flood fields and homes built close to riverbanks.

2. Now look across the Atlantic to northern Africa. The Sahara stretches from the Atlantic coast toward the Red Sea, far north of the equator. Most of this desert gets very little rain, although temperatures vary by place and season. Many days are hot, and scarce surface water makes farming difficult away from rivers or oases. In some areas, people raise livestock and travel between grazing sites. Along the Nile River, water from farther south supports farms and large settlements despite the dry surroundings.

3. Travel north on the globe to Canada's Arctic lands, above the Arctic Circle. The tundra there has long, cold winters and short, cool summers. Snow and ice limit the growing season, so few crops can be raised outdoors. In many places, the ground below the surface stays frozen for years; this is called permafrost. Summer thaw can soften the top layer, making buildings and roads harder to keep stable. Some communities bring in food by ship or plane when travel routes allow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where is the Amazon Basin in relation to the equator, and how does one feature of its climate affect travel?

2. Where is the Sahara in relation to the equator? Explain why farms and large settlements can exist along the Nile despite the surrounding climate.

3. Where are Canada's Arctic lands, and how can summer thaw affect the way people build there?

4. Compare the Amazon Basin and the Sahara. How does rainfall in each region affect farming?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine planning a town in the Congo Basin of central Africa, near the equator. In four sentences, locate it relative to the Amazon Basin, predict its climate, and propose two different town designs, explaining how each responds to that climate.

ANSWER KEY

Climate Shapes Lives

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.2.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline clues that locate each region, circle clues about its climate, and number one effect on people's lives in each region 1, 2, and 3. Use your marks to connect place, climate, and daily life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where is the Amazon Basin in relation to the equator, and how does one feature of its climate affect travel?	**The Amazon Basin is near the equator in northern South America. Heavy rain swells rivers, and many communities use boats where roads are scarce.**
2	Where is the Sahara in relation to the equator? Explain why farms and large settlements can exist along the Nile despite the surrounding climate.	**The Sahara is in northern Africa, far north of the equator. The Nile supplies water for farms and settlements in the dry region.**
3	Where are Canada's Arctic lands, and how can summer thaw affect the way people build there?	**They are above the Arctic Circle. Summer thaw can soften the ground over permafrost, making buildings and roads harder to keep stable.**
4	Compare the Amazon Basin and the Sahara. How does rainfall in each region affect farming?	**Frequent rain in the Amazon Basin supports crops but can flood fields. Very little rain in the Sahara makes farming difficult away from rivers or oases.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Congo Basin is in central Africa near the equator, like the Amazon Basin in South America. I would expect warm weather and frequent heavy rain. I would build raised walkways so people could reach schools when rain makes paths muddy. I would put wide roofs over market stalls to keep food and goods dry during storms.

Accept other reasonable climate-responsive designs if the student explains how each helps people live with warm, wet conditions. The Congo Basin should be placed in central Africa near the equator, not in South America.