Where People Settle

Trace how climate and land shape life in three biomes

6-9.WG.2.5 "Identify major biomes and explain ways in which the natural environment and climate of places in regions throughout the world are related to affect settlement patterns and everyday life."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline climate and land clues in each paragraph, circle where people settle or how they build, and number one daily activity shaped by the environment in each paragraph.

Living With the Land

1. Near the Arctic coast of Alaska, tundra stretches across land with low plants and almost no trees. Winters are long and bitterly cold, while summers are short. Below the surface, much of the ground stays frozen year-round. In some communities, builders place homes on supports above the ground so warmth from the buildings will not thaw the frozen soil. Many settlements lie near the coast, where people can fish and reach other places by boat during ice-free months. Cold and frozen ground shape both building plans and travel.

2. In the Sahara Desert of North Africa, rain is scarce and temperatures can climb sharply during the day. Much of the land is dry, so large settlements tend to cluster where dependable water is available, including oases and river valleys. At an oasis, groundwater can reach the surface, allowing people to grow crops such as date palms. Families may plan outdoor work for cooler morning or evening hours. Water sources influence where homes and farms can be built, while daytime heat shapes when people carry out everyday tasks.

3. In the Amazon rainforest of South America, heavy rain and warm temperatures support thick plant growth. Rain and rivers can also flood low ground. Many towns stand beside rivers, which give residents routes for traveling and moving goods where roads are limited. In flood-prone areas, some homes are built on stilts to keep living spaces above rising water. Residents may travel by boat to school or markets, and some households fish in nearby rivers. Here, water helps people connect with neighbors, but it also affects where and how they build.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which biome covers the Arctic coast in the passage, and how does frozen ground affect home construction?

2. Why do large settlements in the Sahara Desert tend to cluster near oases or river valleys?

3. How do rivers in the Amazon rainforest affect both where towns stand and an everyday activity?

4. Compare how water affects where people settle in the Sahara Desert and the Amazon rainforest.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A region has wide land covered mostly with grasses, few trees, moderate rain, and cold winters. Name its likely biome, then write three sentences explaining how its environment could shape where people settle and one everyday activity.

ANSWER KEY

Where People Settle

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.2.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline climate and land clues in each paragraph, circle where people settle or how they build, and number one daily activity shaped by the environment in each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which biome covers the Arctic coast in the passage, and how does frozen ground affect home construction?	**The biome is tundra. Some homes stand on supports so building warmth does not thaw the frozen ground.**
2	Why do large settlements in the Sahara Desert tend to cluster near oases or river valleys?	**They cluster there because dependable water is scarce elsewhere and people need water for homes and farms.**
3	How do rivers in the Amazon rainforest affect both where towns stand and an everyday activity?	**Many towns stand beside rivers. Residents use boats to travel to places such as school or markets.**
4	Compare how water affects where people settle in the Sahara Desert and the Amazon rainforest.	**In the Sahara, settlements cluster near scarce sources of dependable water. In the Amazon rainforest, many towns stand beside rivers that serve as travel routes, though nearby low ground may flood.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This region is a temperate grassland. People might settle near streams to have a dependable water supply. Some residents could farm the open land and wear warm clothes while working outdoors in winter.

For Part 3, accept temperate grassland or grassland. Responses should connect a stated environmental feature to a plausible settlement choice and daily activity.