Cities in Context

Locate major cities using countries, regions, and geographic clues.

6-9.WG.2.7 "Identify the names and locations of countries and major cities in regions around the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline each country name, circle each city name, and write each paragraph's region name in the margin. Use your marks to find where the cities are located.

Three Regions, Many Landmarks

1 Imagine planning stops across Southeast Asia, where rivers help locate major cities. In Laos, Vientiane stands beside the Mekong River. Farther south along that river, Phnom Penh sits in Cambodia near the meeting of the Mekong and Tonle Sap rivers. In Thailand, Bangkok spreads along the Chao Phraya River, which flows toward the Gulf of Thailand. To the east, Hanoi is in northern Vietnam near the Red River. These city and country pairs give you landmarks more useful than a list of names.

2 Now shift to West Africa and follow the Atlantic coast. Dakar is a major city in Senegal, on a peninsula that reaches into the ocean. Farther east along the coast, Accra is in Ghana. Lagos, a large city in Nigeria, also lies near the Atlantic. Nigeria has another major city, Abuja, farther inland. Dakar, Accra, and Lagos can be linked by their coastal settings, but Abuja cannot. The coastline and the inland location help distinguish the cities, even when two of them share one country.

3 Across the Atlantic, South America offers a different set of location clues. Quito is in Ecuador, high in the Andes Mountains. Lima, in Peru, sits on the Pacific coast, west of the Andes. Farther south, Buenos Aires is in Argentina beside the Río de la Plata, a wide estuary that opens toward the Atlantic. Brasília is an inland city in Brazil, on a plateau far from the coast. If a city name slips your mind, its country, region, and nearby land or water feature can help you place it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which Southeast Asian country has Vientiane beside the Mekong River?

2. Name the West African cities in Senegal and Ghana. Give the country for each city.

3. Which South American city is in Ecuador's highlands, and which city is on Peru's Pacific coast?

4. In which West African country are both Lagos and Abuja? Which of those cities is inland?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan a three-stop trip with one city in each region from the passage. For each stop, name the city, its country, its region, and one location clue from the passage, then explain in one sentence how your trip covers three regions.

ANSWER KEY

Cities in Context

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.2.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline each country name, circle each city name, and write each paragraph's region name in the margin. Use your marks to find where the cities are located. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which Southeast Asian country has Vientiane beside the Mekong River?	**Laos.**
2	Name the West African cities in Senegal and Ghana. Give the country for each city.	**Dakar is in Senegal, and Accra is in Ghana.**
3	Which South American city is in Ecuador's highlands, and which city is on Peru's Pacific coast?	**Quito is in Ecuador's highlands, and Lima is on Peru's Pacific coast.**
4	In which West African country are both Lagos and Abuja? Which of those cities is inland?	**Both are in Nigeria. Abuja is inland.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I would visit Bangkok in Thailand, Southeast Asia, along the Chao Phraya River. Next, I would go to Accra in Ghana, West Africa, on the Atlantic coast. Last, I would visit Brasília in Brazil, South America, on an inland plateau. These stops take me to three different world regions.

Accept any three accurate city-country-region sets from the passage, one per region, with a matching location clue. The trip order may vary.