Cedar Valley Choices

How uneven resources shape a community

6-9.WG.3.1 "Describe abundance, scarcity, and distribution of resources; explain their impact on decision making such as trade, settlement, stewardship of the natural environment, and development of infrastructure."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details about where resources are found. Circle three decisions that those resource patterns help explain.

A Valley Divided

1. Picture Cedar Valley, an imaginary place with three very different areas. In the north, a river carries snowmelt past a narrow strip of rich soil. Farther south, flat land gets little rain, and wells reach only a small supply of groundwater. A rocky ridge in the west has plenty of stone but almost no soil for crops. These resources are not spread evenly. Water and good farmland are abundant near the river, while usable water is scarce in the south and stone is abundant on the ridge.

2. Most families settle beside the northern river, where they can grow vegetables and collect water nearby. Southern families want to farm their flat land, so the valley council proposes a canal to carry river water south. Building it would take stone, workers, and money. It might also leave less river water for northern farms and fish during dry months. Before approving the canal, the council must decide how much water it can safely move and which places would receive it first.

3. Ridge workers cut stone for canal walls but need food because their rocky ground grows few crops. They trade stone to northern farmers for vegetables, so each group gets something its own area lacks. Meanwhile, the council limits how much water the canal can take in dry months and asks farmers to use drip irrigation, which delivers water close to plant roots. These steps help protect the river while using scarce water for crops. The valley's choices depend on both the amount of each resource and where it is found.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why do most families settle near the northern river instead of on the southern flat land?

2. How does the location of stone and farmland lead ridge workers and northern farmers to trade?

3. How could the canal affect northern farms and fish in dry months, and what limit does the council set?

4. How does drip irrigation help farmers use scarce water while protecting the river?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a fourth area in Cedar Valley with one abundant resource and one scarce resource different from the ridge's pair. In four or five sentences, explain where people might settle, one trade or infrastructure choice, and one step to protect a resource.

ANSWER KEY

Cedar Valley Choices

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details about where resources are found. Circle three decisions that those resource patterns help explain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why do most families settle near the northern river instead of on the southern flat land?	**The north has river water and rich soil for growing food. The south gets little rain and has limited groundwater.**
2	How does the location of stone and farmland lead ridge workers and northern farmers to trade?	**Ridge workers have plenty of stone but little crop land. Northern farmers grow vegetables and trade some for the workers' stone.**
3	How could the canal affect northern farms and fish in dry months, and what limit does the council set?	**The canal could leave less river water for farms and fish. The council limits how much water it can take in dry months.**
4	How does drip irrigation help farmers use scarce water while protecting the river?	**It delivers water close to plant roots, helping farmers grow crops with limited water while reducing the amount they need to take from the river.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

East of Cedar Valley, thick forests provide abundant timber, but clean drinking water is scarce. Families settle near a clean spring instead of spreading across the forest. They trade timber for vegetables and build tanks to store rainwater for gardens. They limit tree cutting near the spring to keep soil from washing into the water.

Accept answers that connect the location or amount of a resource to each decision. For the open task, the invented area must have an abundant resource and a scarce resource other than the ridge's stone and crop soil.