Life on the Move

How early communities found food, made shelter, and worked together

6-9.WH.1.2 "Describe the characteristics of early hunter-gatherer communities."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about food and movement, circle details about tools and shelter, and number two examples of people helping one another. Use your marks to describe how hunter-gatherer communities lived.

A Community on the Move

1. At a campsite thousands of years ago, a small group wakes before sunrise. Some people look for ripe berries and edible roots, while others search for signs of animals. Hunter-gatherers get food from wild plants and animals rather than raising crops or keeping herds. They may fish, collect shellfish, or gather nuts, depending on where they live. Because wild food changes with the seasons, many groups move between familiar places instead of staying in one spot all year. Their knowledge of plants, animals, and weather helps them choose where to go.

2. Moving often shapes what a community carries. People can make shelters from branches, hides, or other nearby materials, and they take useful tools when they leave. A sharp stone edge can cut meat or work wood; a woven basket can carry gathered food. Skills and tasks are shared in different ways among group members, including children, though the exact roles vary across communities. Adults may teach younger people to recognize safe foods and prepare tools. These lessons pass on knowledge that helps the group survive without farms or permanent houses.

3. Living in a small group also means depending on other people. A successful hunt may provide more meat than one person can eat, so sharing helps feed others. Group members can care for young children and help someone who is hurt. When food is hard to find, they may discuss where to travel next and use what they know about the land. Early hunter-gatherer communities were not all alike: nearby forests, grasslands, and coasts offered different resources. Their daily lives changed with their surroundings, but cooperation mattered in every setting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Describe how the way hunter-gatherers got food affected where many groups lived during the year.

2. Describe two features of tools or shelters that suited a community that moved often.

3. Describe how a hunter-gatherer community passed on knowledge needed for daily life.

4. Describe two ways cooperation helped people in an early hunter-gatherer community.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

After heavy rain, a group's usual campsite is soaked, and the trail to a familiar berry patch is blocked. Write four sentences describing two choices the group could make and explaining how each choice shows a characteristic of hunter-gatherer communities.

ANSWER KEY

Life on the Move

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WH.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details about food and movement, circle details about tools and shelter, and number two examples of people helping one another. Use your marks to describe how hunter-gatherer communities lived. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe how the way hunter-gatherers got food affected where many groups lived during the year.	**They relied on wild food that changed with the seasons, so many groups moved between familiar places instead of staying in one spot all year.**
2	Describe two features of tools or shelters that suited a community that moved often.	**People could make shelters from nearby materials and take useful tools, such as stone edges or baskets, when they moved.**
3	Describe how a hunter-gatherer community passed on knowledge needed for daily life.	**Adults could teach younger people to recognize safe foods and prepare tools.**
4	Describe two ways cooperation helped people in an early hunter-gatherer community.	**People could share meat from a hunt and care for young children or someone who was hurt.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The group could move to higher ground and build shelters from nearby branches. This choice shows how a mobile community can use local materials when conditions change. Some members could search for other wild foods while others care for children at the new camp. Sharing tasks and knowledge would help the group find food and keep everyone safe.

Accept other passage-supported descriptions of mobility, wild food sources, useful tools, shared knowledge, and cooperation. For Part 3, look for two plausible choices and an explanation of how each reflects hunter-gatherer life.