Stronger Together

Three reasons neighbors join forces after a flood

6-9.WH.5.3 "Explain why people unite for political, economic, and humanitarian reasons."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what the towns want to achieve together in each paragraph, and circle a detail that shows why acting alone would be harder. Write P, E, or H beside each paragraph to show whether its main reason for uniting is political, economic, or humanitarian.

Three Towns, One River

1. Imagine three towns beside the same river: Alder, Brook, and Cedar. After heavy rain, water rises quickly, but the county has no warning system that reaches all three towns. Residents want the county council to fund river gauges and sirens. Each town could ask alone, but a request backed by all three towns speaks for more voters along the river. Neighbors collect signatures and speak together at a council meeting. By joining voices, they try to change a public decision that affects everyone downstream.

2. Flooding also closes the road to a market where farmers from all three towns sell food. Reopening it would help families earn money, but repairing the road costs more than any one town can afford. The towns ask the county to share repair costs, and local businesses pool money for a temporary delivery route. Working together spreads the expense and helps sellers reach buyers sooner. Their goal here is not to win a vote. It is to protect jobs and trade after the flood.

3. On the wettest night, some Cedar families leave their homes with little food or dry clothing. People in Alder open a school gym as a shelter, while Brook volunteers bring meals and blankets. No volunteer group has enough supplies or space to help every family alone. The towns share what they have so more people can stay safe and warm. This effort does not depend on where the families usually shop or how they vote. It begins with the need to care for people in danger.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why do residents of all three towns collect signatures and speak together at the county meeting?

2. Why do the towns and businesses work together to restore a way to reach the market?

3. Why do people in Alder and Brook share shelter space and supplies with Cedar families?

4. How is the reason for joining voices at the council meeting different from the reason for opening the shelter?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A city faces a long summer heat wave. In four or five sentences, describe how two neighborhood groups could unite for one political, one economic, and one humanitarian reason, and explain why joining together helps with each goal.

ANSWER KEY

Stronger Together

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WH.5.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what the towns want to achieve together in each paragraph, and circle a detail that shows why acting alone would be harder. Write P, E, or H beside each paragraph to show whether its main reason for uniting is political, economic, or humanitarian. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why do residents of all three towns collect signatures and speak together at the county meeting?	**A request from all three towns represents more voters, which may give them a stronger voice in the county's decision about gauges and sirens.**
2	Why do the towns and businesses work together to restore a way to reach the market?	**One town cannot afford the road repair alone. Sharing costs and creating a temporary route helps sellers reach buyers and protects income.**
3	Why do people in Alder and Brook share shelter space and supplies with Cedar families?	**Cedar families need food, dry clothing, and safety, and no volunteer group has enough space or supplies to help everyone alone.**
4	How is the reason for joining voices at the council meeting different from the reason for opening the shelter?	**Residents join voices to influence a public decision. They open the shelter to meet families' immediate needs and keep them safe.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During a long heat wave, two neighborhood groups could ask the city council together to fund more public shade, since a joint request represents more residents. Shop owners could pool money for shared refrigerated storage, since paying alone would be too costly. Volunteers could share water and check on people who have trouble leaving home, reaching more people than one group could. These goals involve a public decision, protecting income, and meeting urgent human needs.

Accept other passage-supported explanations that connect each shared action to its purpose. For Your Turn, look for three distinct reasons to unite and an explanation of how cooperation helps with each one.