Where We Belong

Explore the physical and cultural features of the Midwest.

3.G.5 "Explain that regions are areas that have similar physical and cultural characteristics. Identify Indiana and the local community as part of a specific region."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about land or water and circle two shared activities, then write 1 beside the sentence that explains why your Indiana community is in the Midwest.

Indiana in the Midwest

1. On a drive through Indiana, you might pass fields of corn, a river, and a town with a school gym. These places are not all alike, but they share a location. Indiana is in the Midwest region of the United States. A region is an area whose places share physical and cultural characteristics. Land and water are physical features.

2. Much of Indiana has flat or gently rolling land. Farms grow crops on some of that land. Northern Indiana touches Lake Michigan. Other Midwestern states also have farmland and rivers. These shared physical features help people describe the Midwest as a region. They do not mean that every place in the Midwest looks the same. Some communities have busy streets instead of fields.

3. People also share cultural characteristics, which are things they do or make. In Indiana and other Midwestern states, people gather for county fairs and follow basketball games. Not everyone enjoys the same activities, but these shared traditions can help describe a region. Your Indiana community is part of the Midwest because it is in Indiana. It also has its own places and traditions within that larger region.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Name one physical feature Indiana shares with other Midwestern states. How does that feature help describe the region?

2. Which two activities show a cultural link between Indiana and other Midwestern states?

3. A classmate says every place in the Midwest must look the same. What detail from the passage shows that this is not true?

4. Which larger region is your Indiana community part of? How do you know?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Name your Indiana community. In three sentences, describe one land or water feature you have seen there, describe one local activity people do together that is not named in the passage, and explain why your community is part of the Midwest.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.G.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about land or water and circle two shared activities, then write 1 beside the sentence that explains why your Indiana community is in the Midwest. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name one physical feature Indiana shares with other Midwestern states. How does that feature help describe the region?	**Indiana and other Midwestern states have farmland or rivers. This shared feature helps describe the Midwest.**
2	Which two activities show a cultural link between Indiana and other Midwestern states?	**People gather for county fairs and follow basketball games.**
3	A classmate says every place in the Midwest must look the same. What detail from the passage shows that this is not true?	**Some communities have busy streets instead of fields.**
4	Which larger region is your Indiana community part of? How do you know?	**It is part of the Midwest because Indiana is in the Midwest.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Bloomington, Indiana, I have seen wooded hills near town. People gather at the farmers market to buy food from local growers. Bloomington is part of the Midwest because it is in Indiana.

For the first question, accept farmland or rivers as the shared physical feature. For Your Turn, accept any accurate local land or water feature and a community activity not named in the passage.