Creek Changes

Read how weather and people shape a local creek.

3.G.8 "Identify and describe how human activities and natural systems affect the local environment."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline natural causes of change, and circle things people do that change Maple Creek.

A Creek Behind the Library

1. Maple Creek runs behind the town library. After a hard rain, water rushes down the hill and into the creek. The fast water can carry loose soil from the bank. The creek turns brown for a while, and less sunlight reaches the plants below the water. After many days without rain, the creek is lower and clearer. Rain and dry weather both change this small place.

2. Across the street, a parking lot covers ground where rain once soaked in. Now rainwater runs over the pavement and flows toward Maple Creek. It may carry bits of trash from the lot. People at the library put a covered trash can near the door. When visitors use it, fewer wrappers blow into the water. Both the lot and the trash can affect the creek.

3. Beside the creek, a family plants shrubs along the bank. Their roots help hold the soil in place when water rises. The shrubs give shade to small fish on hot days. A few children notice a muddy patch where people cut across the bank. They ask for a path farther from the water so feet will not wear away more soil. Small choices can change what happens next.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does a hard rain change Maple Creek?

2. How does the creek change after many days without rain?

3. How does the parking lot affect what reaches the creek when it rains?

4. Describe two things people do in the passage that can help the creek. How does each one help?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a place near your home or school that is not Maple Creek. In three sentences, name one natural event and one thing people do there, and explain how each changes the place.

ANSWER KEY

Creek Changes

GRADE 3 · 3.G.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline natural causes of change, and circle things people do that change Maple Creek. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does a hard rain change Maple Creek?	**Fast water carries loose soil into the creek, turning it brown and blocking some sunlight from underwater plants.**
2	How does the creek change after many days without rain?	**It becomes lower and clearer.**
3	How does the parking lot affect what reaches the creek when it rains?	**Rain runs over the pavement toward the creek and may carry bits of trash with it.**
4	Describe two things people do in the passage that can help the creek. How does each one help?	**Visitors use a covered trash can, so fewer wrappers blow into the water. A family plants shrubs whose roots help hold soil along the bank.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At my school yard, heavy rain makes puddles in low spots. The puddles make the ground muddy. People plant a tree there, and its roots help hold the soil in place.

Accept answers that correctly connect a cause to its effect on the creek. For Your Turn, accept any plausible local place with one natural event and one human activity whose effects are explained in three sentences.