Ice Left Clues

Read how glaciers changed Indiana's land and life.

4.G.4 "Explain how glaciers shaped Indiana's landscape and environment."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three phrases that show how ice or meltwater changed Indiana's land. Circle two phrases that show how those changes affect living things or people.

What the Ice Left Behind

1. Long ago, thick sheets of ice moved across much of Indiana. As the ice crept forward, it scraped the ground and carried rocks, sand, and soil. In many places, it wore down high spots and filled low spots with the material it carried. This helped make much of northern and central Indiana flatter than the hilly land in the far south, where the last ice sheets did not reach.

2. When the ice melted, it dropped piles and blankets of broken rock and soil called till. The ice had ground some rock into tiny pieces. Over time, this material helped form soil that supports many Indiana farms. Glaciers also left rounded hills of till in some places, so land shaped by ice is not all flat. A field and a nearby hill can both tell a story about melting ice.

3. Melting ice sent water rushing across the land. The water carried sand and gravel and laid them down along its path. In some low places, meltwater collected and formed lakes. Today, lakes and wet ground give birds and other animals places to live. People also use some lakes left by glaciers for fishing and boating. Ice shaped Indiana's land, and the changed land shaped life there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is much of northern and central Indiana flatter than the hilly land in the far south?

2. How did melting glaciers help make land that supports Indiana farms?

3. How did meltwater help create places for birds and other animals to live?

4. How could a glacier leave both flatter land and rounded hills?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new town on glacier-shaped land in northern Indiana. In three or four sentences, choose a place for a farm and a place to protect wildlife, then explain how glaciers made each place useful.

Ice Left Clues

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three phrases that show how ice or meltwater changed Indiana's land. Circle two phrases that show how those changes affect living things or people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is much of northern and central Indiana flatter than the hilly land in the far south?	**Ice scraped the ground, wore down high spots, and filled low spots in much of northern and central Indiana. The last ice sheets did not reach the far south.**
2	How did melting glaciers help make land that supports Indiana farms?	**The glaciers dropped till, which helped form soil that supports farms.**
3	How did meltwater help create places for birds and other animals to live?	**Meltwater collected in low places and formed lakes. Lakes and wet ground give animals places to live.**
4	How could a glacier leave both flatter land and rounded hills?	**Moving ice wore down high spots and filled low spots, making land flatter. Melting ice also left piles of till that formed rounded hills.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would put a farm on flatter land where glaciers left material that helped make soil. I would protect wet ground near a lake that formed when meltwater collected in a low place. Birds and other animals could live in the wet ground.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of how glacial deposits or meltwater shaped the land. For Part 3, look for two suitable places and a glacier-related reason for each choice.