Indiana Ground Rules

How land and water shape work in Indiana

4.G.5 "Identify the challenges in the physical landscape of Indiana to early settlers and modern day economic development."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline physical features that made work difficult, and circle the words that show how each feature affected early settlers or people today.

When the Land Shapes the Plan

1. In northern Indiana, early settlers sometimes met broad wetlands. Rain and melting snow kept the ground soggy. Wagon wheels sank into mud, so carrying crops to a market could take longer. Some settlers dug ditches to drain wet ground for fields. Today, a business building a warehouse near a wetland must still deal with soft ground and high water. Filling wetlands can also increase flooding nearby.

2. Southern Indiana has wooded hills and valleys. Early settlers had to cut paths through thick forests, and pulling wagons up steep slopes was slow. Clearing trees for fields took time and hard work. Today, hills can make a new highway or factory site costly. Builders may need to level land or choose a longer, gentler route. Trees also hold soil in place when rain falls.

3. Rivers offered travel routes, but they also brought trouble. Along parts of the Wabash River, floodwater could cover low land. Early settlers might lose crops or find a road under water. A modern town can face the same problem when it places roads, shops, or factories near the river. Planners must consider where floodwater may go before choosing a site for new jobs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did northern Indiana's wetlands make it harder for early settlers to take crops to market?

2. How did thick forests make it harder for early settlers to make paths or fields?

3. Why can southern Indiana's hills make a new highway costly?

4. What problem could Wabash River floodwater cause for a town building roads or shops today?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine planning a road that travels through two parts of Indiana. In four sentences, name two different landscape challenges from the passage, explain how each affected early settlers, tell how they could affect businesses using the road today, and suggest a route that avoids or reduces one challenge.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.G.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline physical features that made work difficult, and circle the words that show how each feature affected early settlers or people today. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did northern Indiana's wetlands make it harder for early settlers to take crops to market?	**Wagon wheels could sink into the soggy ground, making the trip take longer.**
2	How did thick forests make it harder for early settlers to make paths or fields?	**Settlers had to cut paths through the trees and clear trees for fields.**
3	Why can southern Indiana's hills make a new highway costly?	**Builders may need to level land or choose a longer, gentler route.**
4	What problem could Wabash River floodwater cause for a town building roads or shops today?	**Floodwater could cover low land where the town puts roads or shops.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Wetlands made settlers' wagon wheels sink into mud. Floodwater near the Wabash could cover their roads. Today, soft ground and flooding could delay trucks carrying goods for businesses. I would route the new road around the wetland and away from low land beside the river.

Accept answers that connect a physical feature to a specific difficulty stated in the passage. For Your Turn, the proposed route should reasonably address at least one of the two chosen challenges.