Living With the Land

Native communities and Indiana's rivers, soil, and forests

4.H.2 "Identify and describe historic Native American groups that lived in Indiana at the time of early European exploration, including ways these groups adapted to and interacted with the physical environment."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the passage, underline the first mention of each group, circle one natural feature that group used, and draw a line connecting the group to that feature.

Along Indiana's Rivers

1. When French explorers and traders began visiting the land now called Indiana in the late 1600s, Native peoples already knew its waterways well. Miami communities lived near rivers in what is now northern and central Indiana. They used canoes to travel between villages and reach fishing places. On nearby land, families grew corn, beans, and squash. The rivers helped connect people as well as provide food.

2. The Wea were a Miami-related group who lived along the Wabash River in what is now western Indiana in the early 1700s. The rich soil near the river made good places to grow corn and other crops. People also caught fish in the water. In colder months, hunters went into nearby forests for deer. A river village offered several ways to find food.

3. Potawatomi communities lived in northern Indiana near the St. Joseph River by the early 1700s. Some families grew crops, while people also fished in rivers and hunted in woods. In spring, they collected sap from maple trees and boiled it into sugar. A river could supply food and a travel path, while trees offered another food source. These choices show how each group used its surroundings.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did living near rivers help Miami communities travel?

2. Why was land near the Wabash River useful to Wea farmers?

3. How did Potawatomi communities use maple trees in spring?

4. What are two different ways the Miami and Potawatomi used rivers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a Wea village moves away from the Wabash River to a place near a forest. In three sentences, explain one useful thing the village might lose, one resource it could still use, and how its work might change.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.H.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In the passage, underline the first mention of each group, circle one natural feature that group used, and draw a line connecting the group to that feature. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did living near rivers help Miami communities travel?	**They used canoes on rivers to travel between villages and reach fishing places.**
2	Why was land near the Wabash River useful to Wea farmers?	**The rich soil near the river was good for growing corn and other crops.**
3	How did Potawatomi communities use maple trees in spring?	**They collected maple sap and boiled it into sugar.**
4	What are two different ways the Miami and Potawatomi used rivers?	**Miami communities used canoes on rivers to travel. Potawatomi communities fished in rivers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Far from the river, the village might have fewer places to catch fish. People could still hunt deer in the nearby forest. They might spend more time hunting for food instead of fishing.

Accept other passage-supported uses of rivers, including fishing by the Miami or river travel by the Potawatomi. For Part 3, look for a reasonable change caused by leaving the river and a use of the nearby forest.