Homes and Harvests

How people used local land and climate

5.G.6 "Describe the ways Native Americans, Africans, immigrant groups, and colonists adapted to variations in the physical environment."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about the land or weather for each group, then circle an action that helped the group live in those conditions.

Different Places, Different Choices

1. In the dry Southwest, Pueblo communities faced long stretches with little rain. They built homes with thick adobe walls made from earth and water. The walls helped keep rooms cooler on hot days and warmer on cold nights. Some Pueblo farmers dug ditches to guide river water to cornfields. This let them grow food where rain alone could not water crops. Their choices fit the land and climate around them.

2. Along the South Carolina coast, enslaved Africans brought knowledge of growing rice in wet places. Many were forced to work on plantations. They used their skills to help build banks and gates that controlled water in low fields. The hot, wet coast suited rice, but the work was dangerous and exhausting. Farther north, colonists in New England cut trees from nearby forests to build wooden houses that sheltered them through snowy winters.

3. In the 1800s, some immigrant families settled on the Great Plains, where tall grass grew but trees were scarce. To make homes, they cut blocks of thick prairie soil, called sod, and stacked them into walls. Sod houses offered shelter from strong winds and winter cold when wood was hard to find. Across these places, people used materials and skills suited to different surroundings, though enslaved people did not choose where they lived or worked.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Pueblo farmers adapt to little rain, and how did their choice help?

2. How did enslaved Africans use their knowledge to grow rice on the South Carolina coast?

3. How did New England's forests and snowy winters shape what colonists built?

4. Why did some immigrant families on the Great Plains build sod houses instead of wooden ones?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a family moves to a windy, rocky coast with few trees. In three or four sentences, describe one way they could get food and one way they could build shelter, and explain how each choice fits the environment.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about the land or weather for each group, then circle an action that helped the group live in those conditions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Pueblo farmers adapt to little rain, and how did their choice help?	**They dug ditches to guide river water to cornfields, so crops could grow where rain alone was not enough.**
2	How did enslaved Africans use their knowledge to grow rice on the South Carolina coast?	**They used their knowledge of growing rice in wet places to help build banks and gates that controlled water in low fields.**
3	How did New England's forests and snowy winters shape what colonists built?	**Colonists used trees from nearby forests to build wooden houses that sheltered them through snowy winters.**
4	Why did some immigrant families on the Great Plains build sod houses instead of wooden ones?	**Trees were scarce, but prairie soil was available. Sod walls offered shelter from wind and winter cold.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The family could catch fish in the coastal water because rocky ground may be hard to farm. They could build a low shelter with stones because trees are scarce and strong winds could damage a tall shelter. They could place it away from waves during storms.

Accept other accurate links between an environmental condition and an adaptation described in the passage. For Your Turn, accept plausible food and shelter choices if the student explains how each fits the rocky, windy coast.