Places Set Limits

How climate and landforms shape choices in three regions

7.G.6 "Describe the limitations that climate and landforms place on land or people in regions of Africa, Asia, and the Southwest Pacific."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each climate or landform limit in the passage. Circle one effect that each limit has on people so you can connect the cause to its result.

Living With the Land

1 In the Sahel, a band of land south of the Sahara in Africa, families often raise animals and grow crops. Rain falls mainly during a short wet season, and the amount can change sharply from year to year. When rains fail, pasture shrinks and farmers may harvest less millet. Long dry months also make a reliable water supply hard to find. Some communities move herds between seasonal grazing areas, while farmers plant crops that need less water. These choices help, but they cannot make rainfall steady or create more pasture during a severe drought.

2 In the Himalayas of Asia, steep slopes and high elevations limit where people can build roads, homes, and fields. Cold weather shortens the growing season at higher elevations. A road may need to wind around a mountainside rather than cross it directly, making travel slower and more costly. Heavy rain can trigger landslides that block mountain routes. In some valleys, farmers shape slopes into terraces to create flatter planting areas. Terraces make farming possible in some places, but they do not remove the danger of landslides or the limits of cold weather.

3 Across the Southwest Pacific, many people live on islands where the ocean shapes daily choices. On low-lying coral atolls, there is little high ground, and freshwater supplies are limited. Saltwater can enter freshwater sources during storms or when sea levels rise, leaving less water for drinking or crops. Ocean travel can connect islands, but rough seas and long distances can delay supplies from larger ports. People may collect rainwater in tanks, yet a long dry spell can empty them. These limits affect where homes are built and how communities plan for emergencies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can a year with little rain affect both herders and farmers in the Sahel?

2. Describe one limit that steep slopes place on travel in the Himalayas and one limit that cold weather places on farming there.

3. Why might people on a low-lying coral atoll have trouble getting enough freshwater, even if they collect rainwater?

4. Compare how landforms or climate can delay the movement of supplies in the Himalayas and the Southwest Pacific.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are planning a small health clinic in one region from the passage. In four or five sentences, explain two climate or landform limits that could affect the clinic and one practical way to prepare for a limit without claiming it will disappear.

ANSWER KEY

Places Set Limits

GRADE 7 · 7.G.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each climate or landform limit in the passage. Circle one effect that each limit has on people so you can connect the cause to its result. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can a year with little rain affect both herders and farmers in the Sahel?	**Pasture shrinks for herders' animals, and farmers may harvest less millet.**
2	Describe one limit that steep slopes place on travel in the Himalayas and one limit that cold weather places on farming there.	**Roads may wind around mountainsides, making travel slower and more costly. Cold weather shortens the growing season at higher elevations.**
3	Why might people on a low-lying coral atoll have trouble getting enough freshwater, even if they collect rainwater?	**Freshwater supplies are limited, saltwater can enter them during storms or as sea levels rise, and a long dry spell can empty rainwater tanks.**
4	Compare how landforms or climate can delay the movement of supplies in the Himalayas and the Southwest Pacific.	**Heavy rain can cause landslides that block mountain routes in the Himalayas. In the Southwest Pacific, rough seas and long distances can delay supplies traveling between islands.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would place a small health clinic in a Himalayan valley. Steep slopes could make a road to the clinic slow and costly to build. Heavy rain could cause a landslide that blocks the road and delays medical supplies. I would keep extra supplies at the clinic, although that would not stop landslides.

Accept other passage-supported limits and effects. For the open task, look for two relevant limits, a plausible preparation step, and recognition that the step does not remove the limit.