Water, Land, Choices

Compare environmental responses in three regions

7.G.9 "Analyze current issues and developments related to the environment in selected countries in Africa, Asia, and the Southwest Pacific."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline an environmental problem, circle a response to it, and box a limit of that response. Use your marks to compare the choices.

Living With Changing Water

1. In Kenya, long dry spells can leave farmers and herders short of water. A family may walk farther to reach a working well, while cattle have less grass to eat. Some communities plant trees near streams and keep soil covered with plants. Roots and ground cover can help soil take in rain and reduce erosion. But young trees need care and water during droughts, and they take years to grow. This response may protect land over time, yet it cannot quickly refill an empty well.

2. In coastal Bangladesh, rising seas and storm surges can push salty water onto farmland. Salt can damage rice plants and make some water sources harder to use. Farmers have begun growing rice varieties that can survive in saltier soil. This lets some families keep farming land they already know instead of leaving it. However, even salt-tolerant rice needs enough fresh water at certain times. A strong storm can still flood fields, so changing seeds reduces one risk without removing the threat from rising seas.

3. In Fiji, rising seas and powerful storms threaten some low-lying coastal villages. Waves can wear away shorelines and send water into homes. Some communities plant mangroves, whose roots help slow waves and hold coastal soil in place. Where the danger is too high, moving homes farther inland is another choice. Relocation can cost money and separate people from fishing areas and family land. Mangroves also need time to grow, so neither choice removes every risk. Fiji's decisions show that protecting a place and moving away have different costs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Kenya's tree planting and Bangladesh's new rice varieties address different water-related problems?

2. Why might planting trees help a Kenyan community over time but not solve an immediate water shortage?

3. Compare one limit of Bangladesh's salt-tolerant rice with one limit of Fiji's mangroves.

4. A village in Fiji faces repeated flooding even after planting mangroves. What other response could it consider, and what cost might come with it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a coastal farming village in Bangladesh with salty fields and storm flooding. In four sentences, propose a plan with one response from the passage and one new, realistic action; explain what each action addresses and identify one limit.

ANSWER KEY

Water, Land, Choices

GRADE 7 · 7.G.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline an environmental problem, circle a response to it, and box a limit of that response. Use your marks to compare the choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Kenya's tree planting and Bangladesh's new rice varieties address different water-related problems?	**In Kenya, trees and ground cover help soil take in rain and reduce erosion during dry spells. In Bangladesh, salt-tolerant rice helps farmers grow crops in salty soil.**
2	Why might planting trees help a Kenyan community over time but not solve an immediate water shortage?	**Trees take years to grow and need water while young. Planting them cannot quickly refill an empty well.**
3	Compare one limit of Bangladesh's salt-tolerant rice with one limit of Fiji's mangroves.	**Salt-tolerant rice still needs fresh water and can be flooded by a strong storm. Mangroves take time to grow and do not remove every coastal risk.**
4	A village in Fiji faces repeated flooding even after planting mangroves. What other response could it consider, and what cost might come with it?	**The village could move homes farther inland. Relocation may cost money and separate people from fishing areas or family land.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Farmers could plant salt-tolerant rice to keep growing crops in salty soil. They could also collect rainwater in covered tanks to provide fresh water when local water is salty. These actions address damaged crops and limited fresh water in different ways. A powerful storm could still flood fields and damage the tanks.

Accept other accurate comparisons grounded in the passage. For Part 3, the new action should be realistic, address an environmental problem in the scenario, and have a plausible limit.