Indiana Underfoot

Connect Indiana's regions, resources, and land uses.

IS.3.2 "Map and describe the physical regions of Indiana and identify major natural resources and land use regions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three named physical regions, circle natural resources, and box land uses. Use your marks to connect each region's location and land to what people do there.

A Trip Across Indiana's Land

1. Begin at Indiana's northern edge, where Lake Michigan meets a narrow shore of sand and former lakebed. Inland, the Northern Lakes and Moraines region has low ridges of glacial debris, sandy ground, and many lakes left by melting ice. Sand and fresh water are natural resources here. Lakes support fishing and recreation, while some flatter ground is farmed. Near the lake, ports and factories use access to water routes; dunes and wetlands limit building in other places. The uneven ground makes this north different from the broad, flatter fields farther south.

2. Across much of the middle of the state, the Central Till Plain stretches from west to east. Glaciers spread thick layers of till, a mixture of clay, sand, and stones, over older bedrock. This cover created gently rolling land and soils that support large fields of corn and soybeans. Fertile soil is a major natural resource, so crop farming is a widespread land use. Streams such as the Wabash River cross the plain, but they do not erase its broad, open appearance. Towns and roads often occupy the same relatively level ground as the fields.

3. Farther south, the Southern Hills and Lowlands region has more varied relief than the central plain. In south-central Indiana, limestone lies near the surface, and quarries remove stone used in buildings. Hills and forests make large crop fields less common there than on the central plain. In the southwest, coal occurs beneath lower, more rolling land; mining has shaped land use in that area. Along the Ohio River and other valleys, flatter floodplains support some farming. This southern mix shows why one physical region can contain several natural resources and several kinds of land use.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where is the Northern Lakes and Moraines region, and how do its lakes affect land use?

2. Which physical region covers much of central Indiana? Explain how its land supports a major land use.

3. Compare south-central and southwestern Indiana. Which resource is used in each place, and how?

4. Why are large crop fields more common in the Central Till Plain than in south-central Indiana?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan a three-stop field trip through Indiana, moving from north to south. At each stop, name a physical region, identify a natural resource there, and propose a land use visitors could observe; explain how at least one land use depends on the land or resource. Write four or five sentences.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three named physical regions, circle natural resources, and box land uses. Use your marks to connect each region's location and land to what people do there. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where is the Northern Lakes and Moraines region, and how do its lakes affect land use?	**It is in northern Indiana, inland from Lake Michigan. Its lakes support fishing and recreation.**
2	Which physical region covers much of central Indiana? Explain how its land supports a major land use.	**The Central Till Plain covers much of central Indiana. Its gently rolling land and fertile soil support crop farming.**
3	Compare south-central and southwestern Indiana. Which resource is used in each place, and how?	**Limestone is quarried in south-central Indiana for building stone. Coal is mined in southwestern Indiana.**
4	Why are large crop fields more common in the Central Till Plain than in south-central Indiana?	**The Central Till Plain has gently rolling land and fertile soil, while south-central Indiana has hills and forests that make large fields less common.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, visit the Northern Lakes and Moraines region to see how fresh water supports fishing. Next, stop in the Central Till Plain to observe crop farming on fertile soil. Last, travel to the Southern Hills and Lowlands region to see a limestone quarry in south-central Indiana. These stops show how different resources support different land uses across the state.

Accept other land uses and resources named in the passage when students place them correctly. For the field trip, check that the three regions appear in north-to-south order and that each proposed land use fits its resource.