Island in Motion

How geography and human choices shape a place over time

WG.2.1 "Give examples of how and why places and regions change or do not change over time."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes to Singapore and circle two features that stayed important. Draw an arrow from each mark to a reason for that change or continuity.

Singapore: A Changing Coast, a Lasting Location

1 In 1819, Singapore was a small settlement beside the Singapore Strait. The British established a trading port there, drawing merchants from across Asia and beyond. Ships traveling between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea could stop near the island, so its location mattered. Over time, more people settled there, and the port grew. The island's role as a meeting point for trade began long before modern container ships. The strait has not moved, and ships still use this passage between major seas. That lasting location helps explain why Singapore remains a busy trading center today.

2 Singapore's shoreline, however, has not stayed the same. Since the 1960s, land reclamation has added land by filling parts of the sea, especially along the southern coast. This created space for industry, housing, and port facilities on an island with limited land. Some former coastal waters are now dry ground, while other stretches of coast have been reshaped. Reclamation can also disturb marine habitats, so this change has environmental costs. The need for space, not a shift in the island's position, drove much of the coastline's change. People changed the edge of the island even though its location stayed fixed.

3 The port itself has changed as shipping technology has changed. In 1972, Singapore opened its first container terminal, allowing crews to transfer standardized cargo boxes more efficiently than loose goods. Singapore has since built larger facilities to handle growing trade, including a new port at Tuas. The country also changed politically: it became independent in 1965. Yet trade remained central to its economy, partly because ships still pass nearby on routes linking major markets. Singapore's history shows two forces at once. Human decisions and new technology can remake a place, while a useful position on sea routes can keep one regional role important.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How has Singapore's shoreline changed since the 1960s, and what need drove that change?

2. How did Singapore's port change in 1972, and why did that change matter?

3. What has stayed the same about Singapore's location, and why does that still matter?

4. Singapore's political status changed in 1965. What economic role continued, and why?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a real place you know or invent a plausible one. In one paragraph, describe two ways it has changed over time and one feature that has stayed important, explaining a reason for each.

ANSWER KEY

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two changes to Singapore and circle two features that stayed important. Draw an arrow from each mark to a reason for that change or continuity. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How has Singapore's shoreline changed since the 1960s, and what need drove that change?	**Land reclamation has turned some coastal waters into land and reshaped parts of the coast. Singapore needed space for industry, housing, and port facilities.**
2	How did Singapore's port change in 1972, and why did that change matter?	**It opened its first container terminal. Standardized cargo boxes could be transferred more efficiently than loose goods.**
3	What has stayed the same about Singapore's location, and why does that still matter?	**The Singapore Strait still lies on a route between major seas. Ships continue to pass nearby, helping Singapore remain a trading center.**
4	Singapore's political status changed in 1965. What economic role continued, and why?	**Singapore became independent, but trade remained central to its economy because ships still pass nearby on routes linking major markets.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In my invented mountain town, farmland became neighborhoods after a highway made it easier to commute to a nearby city. Old barns became shops as more visitors stopped in town. The river still supplies drinking water because it flows from protected mountain headwaters. The buildings and land use changed, but the river's importance continued.

Accept answers that identify the passage's changes or continuities and connect each to a stated reason. For Your Turn, accept real or plausible invented places when both changes and the continuing feature have clear explanations.