Marsh Changes

Predict how living things respond when a habitat changes

L.3.4.2 "Ask questions to predict how natural or human-caused changes in a habitat cause plants and animals to respond in different ways, including hibernating, migrating, responding to light, death, or extinction (e.g., sea turtles, the dodo bird…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes to the marsh habitat, circle one animal response to each change, and write the same number beside each change and its matching response.

A Year at the Marsh

1. At the edge of a marsh, summer air hums with insects. Tree swallows catch them above the water. Woodchucks feed on plants in nearby grass. In fall, days grow shorter and the air cools. Fewer insects fly. Tree swallows travel south, where they can find food. Woodchucks stay and hibernate in burrows, living on fat stored in their bodies.

2. People build a road beside the marsh and add bright lamps. Each night, some moths fly around the lamps instead of visiting flowers. Moths can carry pollen between flowers when they feed. If fewer moths visit the flowers, fewer flowers may make seeds. Some bats avoid bright places, while other bats hunt insects near lamps. The new light changes the marsh at night.

3. Later, workers fill part of the marsh with dirt to make a parking area. Frogs at the marsh need shallow water for their eggs. Without it, some eggs may dry out and die. Ducks may move to another wet place to find food. If every member of a frog species died everywhere, that species would be extinct. One filled marsh alone does not mean extinction.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. When fall brings shorter, cooler days, how do tree swallows and woodchucks respond differently?

2. How might two bats respond differently to the new lamps?

3. If moths keep flying around the lamps instead of visiting flowers, what might happen to the flowers? Why?

4. If workers fill part of the marsh, how might frogs and ducks be affected differently?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine people pave over the grass beside the marsh. Write one question about how woodchucks might respond, then write one sentence predicting a response and explaining why.

ANSWER KEY

Marsh Changes

GRADE 3 · L.3.4.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two changes to the marsh habitat, circle one animal response to each change, and write the same number beside each change and its matching response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	When fall brings shorter, cooler days, how do tree swallows and woodchucks respond differently?	**Tree swallows travel south to find food. Woodchucks stay and hibernate in burrows.**
2	How might two bats respond differently to the new lamps?	**One bat might avoid the bright area, while another might hunt insects near the lamps.**
3	If moths keep flying around the lamps instead of visiting flowers, what might happen to the flowers? Why?	**Fewer flowers may make seeds because fewer moths will carry pollen between them.**
4	If workers fill part of the marsh, how might frogs and ducks be affected differently?	**Some frog eggs may dry out and die without shallow water. Ducks may move to another wet place to find food.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Where might woodchucks go if the grass beside the marsh became pavement? They might move to another grassy place because they feed on plants in the grass.

Accept predictions supported by the passage, even if students use different wording. For the open task, the question must be about woodchucks, and the prediction must connect their response to the loss of grass or plants.