

Saving Pine Creek

Read evidence to judge a wetland solution.

3-LS4-4 "Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the environmental change, circle the proposed solution, and number two details that support the claim that the solution is good.

Water Returns to a Wetland

- ① At Pine Creek Wetland, a new drainage ditch carried rainwater away from the shallow pools. This changed how water was spread across the land. By late summer, many pools were dry. Cattails grew poorly, and fewer insects lived near the mud. Frogs had less water for laying eggs, so herons had fewer frogs to eat. Dry-land grasses began growing where pools had been.
- ② Park workers suggested placing a small barrier in the ditch. The barrier would slow some rainwater and guide it back toward the wetland, while still allowing water to move through the ditch. This solution could refill some shallow pools. With more water, cattails and insects could return. Frogs would have places to lay eggs, and herons could again find more food. The workers would check the water level after storms.
- ③ The barrier is a good solution because it addresses the wetland's water problem. It sends some rainwater back to the pools without completely closing the ditch. This could help the wetland support cattails, insects, frogs, and herons again. Still, workers should watch the pools. If the barrier sends too much water, nearby land could become too wet, which could affect the plants living there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What environmental change caused a problem at Pine Creek Wetland? Name one plant or animal affected by that problem.

- 2 How would the small barrier help solve the wetland's problem?

- 3 What claim does the passage make about the barrier solution?

- 4 Give two details from the passage that support the claim that the barrier is a good solution.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

A parking lot replaces a patch of berry bushes where birds found food and nesting cover. A group plans to plant native berry bushes along the edge of the lot. Write 2 sentences that make a claim about whether this plan has merit and give two reasons.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the environmental change, circle the proposed solution, and number two details that support the claim that the solution is good. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What environmental change caused a problem at Pine Creek Wetland? Name one plant or animal affected by that problem.	The drainage ditch carried rainwater away from the shallow pools. Cattails, insects, frogs, or herons were affected.
2	How would the small barrier help solve the wetland's problem?	It would slow some rainwater and guide it back toward the wetland, helping refill shallow pools.
3	What claim does the passage make about the barrier solution?	The barrier is a good solution because it addresses the wetland's water problem.
4	Give two details from the passage that support the claim that the barrier is a good solution.	Answers may include that pools could refill, cattails and insects could return, frogs could lay eggs, and herons could find more food.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The plan has some merit because native berry bushes would give birds food and nesting cover again. However, bushes along the lot may provide less space than the patch that was removed.

Accept claims that judge the plan as good, partly helpful, or not fully helpful when supported by two accurate reasons. Students should connect the changed land to the birds' food or nesting cover and explain how the solution could help.