

Forces Shape Lives

Trace evidence from Earth systems to human decisions.

HS-ESS3-1 "Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the availability of natural resources, occurrence of natural hazards, and changes in climate have influenced human activity..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that identify a natural resource, natural hazard, or climate change. Draw an arrow from each underlined detail to the human activity it influenced, then label the arrow R, H, or C.

Earth Conditions, Human Choices

- ① Across centuries, the lower Nile River helped shape settlement in Egypt. Annual floods once spread nutrient-rich silt over nearby fields, and the river supplied fresh water for drinking, irrigation, and travel. Farmers could grow grain in a dry region, so villages and cities developed along the river rather than far into the desert. Today, the Aswan High Dam stores water for irrigation and electricity, but it also traps much of the silt behind the dam. Farmers now often use fertilizer to replace nutrients that formerly arrived with floodwater. This example shows how a resource can support population while management changes its effects.
- ② In 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck near Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Shaking collapsed many buildings, especially structures not designed to resist earthquakes, and damaged roads, hospitals, and water systems. People moved into temporary camps because homes were unsafe. The disaster did not cause Haiti to form at that location, but it strongly changed daily activity after the event. Rebuilding decisions included where to place housing, how to strengthen construction, and how to restore services. This case shows that a natural hazard can force people to relocate and can influence the design of communities long after the ground stops shaking.
- ③ Climate change is also reshaping choices in coastal Bangladesh. Global sea level rise raises the starting level for coastal floods, while salt water can move into soils and ponds during storms and high tides. In some coastal areas, saltier soil makes it harder to grow traditional rice varieties, and salty water can reduce supplies of safe drinking water. Some families adapt by raising salt-tolerant crops, changing livelihoods, or moving to cities. Migration has several causes, so climate change is not the only reason people move. Still, changing sea level and water conditions can alter where people live and what work they can do.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Explain how the Nile River influenced where people settled in Egypt. Use two details from the passage as evidence.

2 What human activities changed after the Haiti earthquake? Explain how the hazard caused those changes.

3 How can sea level rise and salt water affect both farming and daily life in coastal Bangladesh?

4 Which passage example shows people adapting to a changing condition rather than responding immediately to a sudden disaster? Support your answer with evidence.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five- to six-sentence explanation comparing any two cases from the passage. Use at least one specific piece of evidence from each case to explain how an Earth condition influenced human activity, then describe one way the human responses were similar or different.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that identify a natural resource, natural hazard, or climate change. Draw an arrow from each underlined detail to the human activity it influenced, then label the arrow R, H, or C. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Explain how the Nile River influenced where people settled in Egypt. Use two details from the passage as evidence.	The Nile supplied fresh water and nutrient-rich silt for farming. Because farmers could grow grain in a dry region, villages and cities developed along the river.
2	What human activities changed after the Haiti earthquake? Explain how the hazard caused those changes.	People moved into temporary camps because homes were unsafe. Rebuilding also changed decisions about housing locations, stronger construction, and restoring services because the earthquake damaged buildings and infrastructure.
3	How can sea level rise and salt water affect both farming and daily life in coastal Bangladesh?	Saltier soil can make traditional rice harder to grow, and salty water can reduce safe drinking water. Families may raise salt-tolerant crops, change livelihoods, or move to cities.
4	Which passage example shows people adapting to a changing condition rather than responding immediately to a sudden disaster? Support your answer with evidence.	Coastal Bangladesh shows adaptation to changing conditions. Families respond to rising sea level and saltier soil or water by raising salt-tolerant crops, changing livelihoods, or moving to cities.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Natural conditions influenced human activity in both Egypt and coastal Bangladesh, but in different ways. In Egypt, fresh Nile water and fertile silt allowed farmers to grow grain in a dry region, so settlements developed along the river. After the dam trapped silt, farmers changed their work by using fertilizer. In Bangladesh, rising sea level and saltier soil make traditional rice harder to grow and can reduce safe drinking water. Families respond by raising salt-tolerant crops, changing livelihoods, or moving to cities.

Accept explanations that accurately connect an identified resource, hazard, or climate change to a human action using passage evidence. For Part 3, students may compare any two cases, as long as they include specific evidence from both and a clear cause-and-effect explanation.