

People Shape Places

Compare how three civilizations met needs in different environments.

5.2b "Complex societies and civilizations adapted to and modified their environment to meet the needs of their people."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one way people changed their environment and circle the words that show the environmental challenge they faced.

Living With the Land

- ① The Maya lived in parts of present-day Mexico and Central America, where forests and seasonal rains shaped daily life. Farmers cleared small plots and grew maize, beans, and squash. In some wet areas, they built raised fields and canals to manage water. Homes were often made with wooden poles, mud, and thatched roofs, using nearby materials. People traveled on foot or by canoe along rivers and coasts.
- ② The Aztecs built their capital, Tenochtitlan, on islands in Lake Texcoco. To grow food near the crowded city, they made chinampas, small farm plots built in shallow lake water. Canals brought canoes carrying crops and people. Raised causeways linked the city to the shore. Many people wore cotton clothing, while others used fibers from maguey plants. Stone buildings stood above the wet ground.
- ③ The Inca lived high in the Andes Mountains, where steep slopes made farming difficult. They cut terraces into hillsides, creating flat steps that held soil and water. Channels carried water to crops. Stone houses helped people live in cool mountain areas. People wore warm clothing woven from alpaca or llama wool. A wide road system, including rope bridges, connected communities; llamas carried goods where wheeled carts could not travel.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem did Maya farmers face in some areas, and what two changes did they make to manage it?

2 How did chinampas and canals help the Aztecs meet the needs of people in Tenochtitlan?

3 Compare Maya and Inca transportation. What did each group use, and what feature of its environment made that transportation useful?

4 How did Inca housing and clothing help people live in the Andes Mountains?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a forest, lake, or steep mountain as the place for a new community. In three or four sentences, describe one change people could make to the environment and explain how it would meet a need for food, shelter, or transportation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one way people changed their environment and circle the words that show the environmental challenge they faced. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem did Maya farmers face in some areas, and what two changes did they make to manage it?	They faced wet areas. They built raised fields and canals to manage water.
2	How did chinampas and canals help the Aztecs meet the needs of people in Tenochtitlan?	Chinampas gave the Aztecs farm plots in shallow lake water to grow food near the crowded city. Canals allowed canoes to carry crops and people.
3	Compare Maya and Inca transportation. What did each group use, and what feature of its environment made that transportation useful?	The Maya traveled by canoe along rivers and coasts. The Inca used roads, rope bridges, and llamas in the steep mountains, where wheeled carts could not travel.
4	How did Inca housing and clothing help people live in the Andes Mountains?	Stone houses helped people live in cool mountain areas. Warm clothing woven from alpaca or llama wool helped keep people warm.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A community lives beside a lake where floods cover the shore each spring. People build raised gardens and dig canals so water can move between the gardens. The gardens provide food, and the canals let boats carry crops to homes.

Accept answers that accurately connect an environmental condition to a human change and a need met. For the open response, accept reasonable solutions when the change, environment, and need are clearly connected.