

Reading Earth's Clues

Use physical-map details to connect places, resources, and settlement.

5.4a "Physical maps reflect the varied climate zones, landforms, bodies of water, and natural resources of the Western Hemisphere."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word or phrase that names a climate zone, landform, body of water, or natural resource. In the margin, write C for climate, L for landform, W for water, or R for resource beside each one.

What Physical Maps Show

- ① A physical map helps readers notice natural features across the Western Hemisphere. It may use blue for oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers. Green often shows lower land, while brown or gray shading can show higher land. A map key explains these colors and symbols. By reading the key, a person can compare features from Canada to South America.
- ② Near the Equator, much of the Amazon Basin has a tropical climate with warm temperatures and heavy rainfall. The Andes Mountains form a long, high chain along western South America. Farther north, tundra covers parts of Canada, where winters are long and cold. These climate zones and landforms help explain why places have different plants, animals, and ways of living.
- ③ Water and other natural resources are also important map features. The Great Lakes hold large amounts of fresh water, and the Mississippi River gives people a route for travel and trade. Forests can provide timber, while fertile soil can support farming. Communities often grow near useful resources, but people must also consider hazards such as floods, steep mountains, or dry deserts.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What do blue areas and brown or gray shading usually show on a physical map?

2 How do the Amazon Basin and the Andes Mountains differ in climate or landform?

3 Compare the climate near the Equator with the climate in the tundra areas of Canada.

4 Use two details from the passage to explain why a community might grow near a body of water or natural resource.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a region and complete the table. Include one body of water, one landform or climate zone, and one natural resource, then explain how each could affect settlement.

FEATURE	CATEGORY	MAP-KEY SYMBOL OR COLOR	EFFECT ON SETTLEMENT

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each word or phrase that names a climate zone, landform, body of water, or natural resource. In the margin, write C for climate, L for landform, W for water, or R for resource beside each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do blue areas and brown or gray shading usually show on a physical map?	Blue usually shows bodies of water. Brown or gray shading can show higher land.
2	How do the Amazon Basin and the Andes Mountains differ in climate or landform?	The Amazon Basin has a tropical climate with warm temperatures and heavy rainfall. The Andes are a long, high mountain chain.
3	Compare the climate near the Equator with the climate in the tundra areas of Canada.	Near the Equator, the climate is warm and rainy. In Canada's tundra areas, winters are long and cold.
4	Use two details from the passage to explain why a community might grow near a body of water or natural resource.	A community might grow near the Mississippi River because it provides travel and trade routes. It might grow near fertile soil because the soil supports farming.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

FEATURE	CATEGORY	MAP-KEY SYMBOL OR COLOR	EFFECT ON SETTLEMENT
Blue River	Body of water	Blue line	A town may grow beside it for water and travel.
Pine Hills	Landform	Brown shaded hills	Steep slopes may limit building.
Fertile Valley Soil	Natural resource	Green dots	Farmers may settle there to grow crops.

Accept equivalent map-feature descriptions and comparisons supported by the passage. For the table, accept reasonable invented features, symbols or colors, categories, and settlement effects.