

Lives Shaped by Land

How people used resources and responded to environmental challenges

6.2a "Human populations that settled along rivers, in rainforests, along coastlines, in deserts, and in mountains made use of the resources and the environment around them in developing distinct ways of life."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each resource people used. Circle each action people took to adapt to or change an environmental challenge, so you can see how surroundings shaped ways of life.

Resources Shape Daily Life

- ① Early communities chose places where food, water, and materials were available. Along rivers, people caught fish for food, gathered reeds for weaving mats, and used river water for drinking and crops. Seasonal floods could leave rich soil for planting, but high water could also damage homes. Some groups built homes on higher ground or moved belongings when water rose. In rainforests, people gathered fruits, nuts, and medicinal plants. They hunted animals and made shelters from wood and large leaves. Thick plants made travel difficult, so people learned paths through the forest.
- ② Coastal communities used nearby seas and shorelines. They gathered shellfish and caught fish. Plant fibers could be made into nets, and wood could be shaped into boats for travel. On coasts, people needed to watch changing tides and rough water. In deserts, scarce rain made water sources especially important. Groups camped near springs or wells, carried water, and moved when grazing plants were used up. Some communities hunted and gathered, while others raised animals suited to dry land.
- ③ Mountain communities faced cooler temperatures, steep slopes, and difficult travel. They hunted mountain animals, collected stone, and used caves or stone shelters. Some farming communities built terraces, flat steps cut into slopes, to keep soil from washing downhill. High passes could connect valleys, but journeys could be hard. Each environment offered useful resources and challenges. People developed ways of life that fit their surroundings, including fishing near water, traveling through forests, moving across dry land, and farming on mountain slopes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two resources river communities used, and tell how they used each one.

2 What problem could river floods cause? Describe one way people responded to that problem.

3 How did the rainforest environment shape both shelter building and travel?

4 Compare coastal and desert life. Give one way people used resources or responded to conditions in each environment.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one environment from the passage. Write 3 or 4 sentences that describe two resources the community used and how it used them, then explain one environmental challenge and how the community responded to it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each resource people used. Circle each action people took to adapt to or change an environmental challenge, so you can see how surroundings shaped ways of life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two resources river communities used, and tell how they used each one.	Any two: fish for food, reeds for weaving mats, or river water for drinking and crops.
2	What problem could river floods cause? Describe one way people responded to that problem.	Floods could damage homes. People built homes on higher ground or moved belongings when water rose.
3	How did the rainforest environment shape both shelter building and travel?	People made shelters from wood and large leaves. Thick plants made travel difficult, so people learned paths through the forest.
4	Compare coastal and desert life. Give one way people used resources or responded to conditions in each environment.	Coastal people gathered shellfish and fish, made nets from plant fibers, shaped wood into boats, and watched tides and rough water. Desert groups camped near springs or wells, carried water, and moved when grazing plants were used up.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A river community used river water for drinking and crops. It also caught fish from the river. Seasonal floods could damage homes, so people built on higher ground or moved belongings when water rose.

Accept accurate details from the passage that connect resources to their uses. For Part 3, accept any environment if the response includes two resource-use examples and an accurate challenge-response adaptation from the passage.