

# Rivers Meet Needs

Trace how early societies used and changed their river environments.

**6.3c** "Mesopotamia, Yellow River valley, Indus River valley, and Nile River valley complex societies and civilizations adapted to and modified their environment to meet the needs of their population."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each phrase that tells how people used or changed their environment to meet a need, and circle each word that names the need: food, clothing, or shelter.

### Living With River Environments

- ① In Mesopotamia, people lived between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, where rain was often too limited for crops. Farmers dug canals and ditches that carried river water to fields. This changed the land and helped grow grain for food. Floods could also damage homes. Builders used mud from riverbanks to make sun-dried bricks. They used these bricks to build houses and walls, providing shelter from weather. Unbaked mud bricks could still be damaged by floodwater.
- ② Along the Nile River, Egyptians planned farming around the yearly flood. After floodwater left rich silt, they planted crops in moist soil for food. They also grew flax near the river. Workers made linen cloth from flax fibers for clothing. In the Indus River valley, seasonal floods and heavy rains affected settlements. People used standardized baked bricks, made from local clay and fired in kilns, to construct houses, providing sturdy shelter during wet seasons and periods of flooding each year.
- ③ In the Yellow River region, early farmers grew millet, a grain suited to relatively dry conditions. Choosing this crop helped them meet their need for food. Farmers also cleared land and worked the soil to create fields. This modified the environment so crops could grow. The river carried yellow silt, but floods could harm farms and settlements. No adaptation removed every risk. Across the four regions, people observed local conditions and adapted or changed their surroundings to meet daily needs.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What did Mesopotamian farmers build to bring water to their fields, and which need did this action meet?

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**2** How did the yearly Nile flood help Egyptians meet a basic need?

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**3** How did Egyptians use flax for clothing, and how did Indus River valley people use local clay for shelter?

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**4** How did Yellow River farmers adapt to local conditions, and how did they modify the land for food?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Choose one river valley from the passage. Write three sentences that name an environmental challenge, describe a new reasonable action people could take, and explain whether the action would meet a need for food, clothing, or shelter.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each phrase that tells how people used or changed their environment to meet a need, and circle each word that names the need: food, clothing, or shelter. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                   | ANSWER                                                                                                                                             |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What did Mesopotamian farmers build to bring water to their fields, and which need did this action meet?   | <b>They dug canals and ditches to carry river water to fields. This helped grow grain for food.</b>                                                |
| 2 | How did the yearly Nile flood help Egyptians meet a basic need?                                            | <b>The flood left rich silt in moist soil, and Egyptians planted crops there for food.</b>                                                         |
| 3 | How did Egyptians use flax for clothing, and how did Indus River valley people use local clay for shelter? | <b>Egyptians made linen cloth from flax fibers for clothing. Indus River valley people made and fired clay bricks to build houses for shelter.</b> |
| 4 | How did Yellow River farmers adapt to local conditions, and how did they modify the land for food?         | <b>They grew millet suited to relatively dry conditions, and they cleared and worked land to create fields.</b>                                    |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

In the Indus River valley, heavy rain could threaten a group of houses. People could make a raised earthen foundation and build their houses on it. This change would protect shelter from floodwater.

Accept answers that accurately connect a river valley challenge to a reasonable adaptation or environmental change and clearly identify food, clothing, or shelter. For the Your Turn response, the student must create an action rather than repeat a passage action.