Changing Oklahoma

Read how changes to land and water helped the state.

3.C.2.4.B "Explain how Oklahomans changed their environments to support development of the state (e.g., recreational lakes, hydroelectric dams, wildlife refuges, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one change to land or water in each paragraph. Circle how each change helps people or wildlife so you can explain why it matters.

Rivers, Lakes, and Safe Places

1. On the Grand River, people built a dam that made Grand Lake in Oklahoma. Water held behind the dam flows through machines that make electricity for homes and businesses. The new lake also gives families places to fish and boat. People visit the area to enjoy the water, and some local businesses serve those visitors. One change to a river helped people in more than one way.

2. Other people changed rivers to move goods. In eastern Oklahoma, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System uses dams and locks to make a route for boats called barges. A lock lifts or lowers a barge when water levels are different. Barges carry goods, such as grain, from Oklahoma toward other places. This water route helps farms and businesses send their products to more buyers.

3. Not every change is a big wall across a river. At Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma, land is set aside for wildlife instead of being used for homes or stores. Many birds stop there during long trips. Keeping space for birds helps them find places to rest and eat. Visitors can watch birds, too. Protecting this land supports wildlife and gives people a place to enjoy nature.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the dam on the Grand River help homes and businesses?

2. How does Grand Lake help businesses near the lake?

3. How do locks help Oklahoma farms and businesses send goods to buyers?

4. How does setting aside land at Salt Plains help both birds and people?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new Oklahoma town by a river. Choose two changes from the passage, explain how each could help the town, and suggest one way to protect wildlife as the town grows. Write three sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Changing Oklahoma

GRADE 3 · 3.C.2.4.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one change to land or water in each paragraph. Circle how each change helps people or wildlife so you can explain why it matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the dam on the Grand River help homes and businesses?	**Water held behind the dam is used to make electricity for homes and businesses.**
2	How does Grand Lake help businesses near the lake?	**The lake draws visitors who are served by local businesses.**
3	How do locks help Oklahoma farms and businesses send goods to buyers?	**Locks lift or lower barges so they can travel along the water route carrying goods.**
4	How does setting aside land at Salt Plains help both birds and people?	**Birds have space to rest and eat, and people have a place to watch them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would build a dam to make electricity for the town. I would set aside a wildlife refuge where birds could rest and families could watch them. I would keep walking paths away from places where birds build nests.

Accept plans that name two changes from the passage, explain a benefit of each, and give a reasonable way to protect wildlife. The three sentences should apply the changes to the imagined town.