Follow the Rivers

Use place clues to ask and answer geographic questions.

3.P.2.3.A "Ask and answer geographic questions, using geographic information about the student's community and state."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two facts that tell where places are, and circle two facts that show how people use places so you can ask and answer geographic questions.

Rivers in Des Moines

1. Des Moines is a city near the center of Iowa. Iowa is a state in the middle of the United States. Two rivers help shape the city. The Raccoon River joins the Des Moines River near downtown. A person walking from one side of a river to the other can use a bridge. That is why bridges matter to people who travel through the city.

2. In Iowa, rain can flow over fields and streets into small streams. Streams carry water to larger rivers. The Des Moines River runs across part of the state before it flows into the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River forms much of Iowa's eastern border. This means water from a neighborhood in Des Moines can become part of a river far from the city.

3. Rivers also change how people use land nearby. In Des Moines, people can walk on trails beside the rivers and visit riverside parks. After heavy rain, a river can rise and cover a low trail. A trail may close until the water goes down. When people ask why a path is closed, the river's location and water level can help them find an answer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where do the Raccoon River and Des Moines River meet?

2. Why might someone in Des Moines use a bridge when traveling through the city?

3. Write a where question about the Mississippi River and Iowa. Then answer it using the passage.

4. Write a why question about a trail beside a river in Des Moines. Then answer it using the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a place in your community other than the places in the passage. Write a geographic question about that place, answer it with a fact you know, and tell how you could check your answer.

ANSWER KEY

Follow the Rivers

GRADE 3 · 3.P.2.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two facts that tell where places are, and circle two facts that show how people use places so you can ask and answer geographic questions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where do the Raccoon River and Des Moines River meet?	**They meet near downtown Des Moines.**
2	Why might someone in Des Moines use a bridge when traveling through the city?	**A bridge lets someone cross a river.**
3	Write a where question about the Mississippi River and Iowa. Then answer it using the passage.	**Where is the Mississippi River in relation to Iowa? It forms much of Iowa's eastern border.**
4	Write a why question about a trail beside a river in Des Moines. Then answer it using the passage.	**Why might a riverside trail close? After heavy rain, the river may rise and cover the trail.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Where is the public library in my community of Ames, Iowa? It is in downtown Ames. I could check its address on the library website.

For questions 3 and 4, accept other questions and answers supported by the passage. For Your Turn, accept a place-based question, a plausible community or state fact, and a way to check it.