Living by the River

How one town uses resources and responds to floods

3.P.2.3.C "Identify and describe how humans modify and adapt to their physical environment, using its natural and human resources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways people change the land, circle two ways people live with floods, and write 1 by a natural resource and 2 by a human resource.

Willow Bend

1. In the town of Willow Bend, a river helps people grow food. Its water feeds gardens, and rich soil makes good farmland. But after heavy rain, the river sometimes spreads across the low ground. Families do not try to stop every flood. Local builders use wood from nearby trees to put some houses on tall posts. Water can pass underneath these homes instead of entering the rooms.

2. Rain also makes the dirt paths muddy. Town workers dig shallow channels beside the paths. The channels carry extra rainwater into a grassy field, where it can soak into the soil. Workers use shovels and stones to keep the channels open. By changing where the water goes, they change part of the land. Children can use the paths more safely after a storm.

3. Near the river, fast water can wash soil away. Neighbors plant young trees along the bank, and their roots help hold the soil in place as they grow. The town moves its outdoor market to higher ground during the rainy season. Moving the market does not change the river, but it helps sellers work around the floods. People use their skills, tools, trees, and land to live beside the river.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the houses on posts help families live with floods? Name a natural resource and a human resource used to build them.

2. How do workers change the land beside the paths, and how does this help people?

3. How do the young trees change the riverbank as they grow, and who makes that change happen?

4. How does moving the market help sellers live with floods without changing the river?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town near a windy, dry hill. In three or four sentences, describe one way people could change the land and one way they could change what they do to live with wind and little rain. Name one natural resource and one human resource they would use.

ANSWER KEY

Living by the River

GRADE 3 · 3.P.2.3.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways people change the land, circle two ways people live with floods, and write 1 by a natural resource and 2 by a human resource. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the houses on posts help families live with floods? Name a natural resource and a human resource used to build them.	**Floodwater can pass under the houses instead of entering the rooms. Wood is a natural resource, and local builders are a human resource.**
2	How do workers change the land beside the paths, and how does this help people?	**Workers dig channels that carry rainwater to a grassy field. This makes the paths safer to use after a storm.**
3	How do the young trees change the riverbank as they grow, and who makes that change happen?	**Their roots help hold the soil in place. Neighbors plant the trees.**
4	How does moving the market help sellers live with floods without changing the river?	**Sellers can work on higher ground during the rainy season, away from floods. The river stays as it is.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People could build low stone walls to slow the wind across a garden. Families could save water in barrels during rare rains, then use it during dry weeks. Rocks and rainwater are natural resources. Masons who build the walls are a human resource.

Accept other passage-based examples of resources and reasonable ways the actions help people. For Your Turn, look for a change to the land, a change in what people do, and correctly named natural and human resources.