# River Valley Clues

Use distance and home counts to study settlement patterns.

**4.C.2.1.B** "Use maps and other geographic representations (e.g., globes, charts, graphs) and geographic technologies to draw conclusions (e.g., settlement patterns, population trends, population density..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** In the passage, underline one clue about why villages might grow. Then circle the two villages closest to the river in the table to compare the clue with the data.

### Four Villages in Cedar Valley

1 Imagine four villages in Cedar Valley, a made-up place with one river. Families once used the river for water and travel. Now they also use roads. The table shows each village's distance from the river and how many homes stood there 50 years ago and today. Each home represents a place where people live, not a count of people.

**HOMES IN CEDAR VALLEY**

| Village | Distance to river | Homes 50 years ago | Homes today |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alder | 0.5 km | 12 | 65 |
| Bend | 1 km | 18 | 80 |
| Hilltop | 4 km | 10 | 28 |
| Pine Grove | 7 km | 9 | 15 |

2 Geographers use tables like this to look for patterns across places and time. A distance tells how far a village is from the river, but it does not tell which direction the village lies. The home counts show how settlement has changed. To find growth, subtract the older home count from the count today.

3 A river may help villages grow because it can provide water, but being close to water can also bring flood danger. Roads, jobs, and land for building can matter too. The table gives clues about where people settled. It cannot prove why they chose those places or show which land might flood.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What pattern do you see when you compare the homes today in the two closest villages with the two farthest villages?

2. Which gained more homes in 50 years, Hilltop or Pine Grove? How many more homes did it gain?

3. Which village is farthest from the river? How does its home count today compare with the village closest to the river?

4. Can the table prove that the river caused the villages to grow? Use a detail from the passage to explain.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one Cedar Valley village for a new library. Use two facts from the table to support your choice, then name one other fact you would need before making a final decision.

ANSWER KEY

# River Valley Clues

GRADE 4 · 4.C.2.1.B

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In the passage, underline one clue about why villages might grow. Then circle the two villages closest to the river in the table to compare the clue with the data. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What pattern do you see when you compare the homes today in the two closest villages with the two farthest villages? | **The two closest villages have more homes today, 65 and 80, than the two farthest villages, 28 and 15.** |
| 2 | Which gained more homes in 50 years, Hilltop or Pine Grove? How many more homes did it gain? | **Hilltop gained 18 homes, and Pine Grove gained 6. Hilltop gained 12 more homes.** |
| 3 | Which village is farthest from the river? How does its home count today compare with the village closest to the river? | **Pine Grove is farthest from the river. It has 15 homes today, which is 50 fewer than Alder's 65.** |
| 4 | Can the table prove that the river caused the villages to grow? Use a detail from the passage to explain. | **No. Roads, jobs, and land for building could also affect where people settle.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would place the new library in Bend. It has 80 homes today, the most in the table, and it gained 62 homes in 50 years. Before deciding, I would check a flood map because Bend is only 1 km from the river.

Accept any village choice supported by two accurate table facts. The additional fact should be useful for choosing a library site, such as flood risk, travel routes, or available land.