Where Towns Grow

Use geographic clues to explain settlements and work

4.C.2.2.C "Draw conclusions from geographic data to explain how climate, vegetation, and bodies of water can affect the location and growth of settlements and the development of economic activities."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle clues about climate, plants, and water in the table, then underline details about homes or jobs in the passage that those clues could help explain.

Three Places to Settle

1 A surveyor visited three places where families had tried to settle: Sunbank, Pinebend, and Windflat. The surveyor wrote down the climate, plants, and water at each place in the table. Each place has a different mix of natural features. The surveyor also counted how people used each place.

THE SURVEYOR'S NOTES

Place	Climate	Plants	Water
Sunbank	Warm, long growing season	Open grassland	River flows all year
Pinebend	Cool, short growing season	Thick pine forest	Large lake
Windflat	Hot and dry most of the year	Sparse grass	Small pools that dry up

2 At Sunbank, families built homes beside the river, and the village grew from six homes to thirty in ten years. People worked in fields and carried baskets of crops by boat to a nearby market. At Pinebend, twelve homes stood close to the lake. Some people fished, while others cut trees and sold wood.

3 Windflat had only four homes, and some families left during very dry months. Traveling sellers still stopped there to trade with people passing through. Pinebend families cleared small patches for gardens, but the growing season was shorter than at Sunbank. The surveyor wondered which features of each place shaped the size of its settlement and the work people did.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Sunbank likely grow more than Windflat? Use a water clue and a detail about the homes.

2. Why would selling wood be a better job at Pinebend than at Sunbank?

3. Why might fishing be a regular job at Pinebend but not at Windflat?

4. How could climate and plants help explain why Sunbank has more homes than Pinebend?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a fourth place with warm, rainy summers, open grassland, and a stream that flows all year. Write three sentences predicting where people might build homes, how the settlement could grow, and one job people might do. Explain your ideas using at least two of the place's natural features.

ANSWER KEY

Where Towns Grow

GRADE 4 · 4.C.2.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle clues about climate, plants, and water in the table, then underline details about homes or jobs in the passage that those clues could help explain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Sunbank likely grow more than Windflat? Use a water clue and a detail about the homes.	**Sunbank's river flows all year, while Windflat's pools dry up. Sunbank grew to thirty homes, but Windflat had only four and some families left during dry months.**
2	Why would selling wood be a better job at Pinebend than at Sunbank?	**Pinebend has a thick pine forest with trees to cut and sell. Sunbank has open grassland.**
3	Why might fishing be a regular job at Pinebend but not at Windflat?	**Pinebend has a large lake where people can fish. Windflat has only small pools that dry up.**
4	How could climate and plants help explain why Sunbank has more homes than Pinebend?	**Sunbank's long growing season and open grassland offer more chances to grow crops. Pinebend has a shorter growing season and a thick forest, where families cleared only small garden patches.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People might build homes near the stream because it provides water all year. Warm, rainy summers and open grassland could help families grow crops, so farming might become a common job. With steady water and room for fields, the settlement could grow as more families arrive.

Accept other reasonable conclusions that connect the passage or table data to settlement growth or work. For Your Turn, look for three sentences that address homes, growth, and a job using at least two given natural features.