Pine Bend Changes

How a town meets its needs while caring for its creek

4.C.2.5.B "Describe how humans modify the environment to meet their needs (e.g., clearing of forests, crop rotation and irrigation, conservation, extraction of fossil fuels, construction of housing additions and businesses)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three ways people changed the land or water. For each change, circle words that tell what need it helped meet.

Changes Along Pine Bend Creek

1. In the town of Pine Bend, more families needed places to live. Workers cleared a small patch of trees near the road and built houses there. The trees had given birds places to nest, so the town kept a strip of woods between the houses and the creek. The new homes met a need for shelter, but the work also changed where plants and animals could live.

2. Across the creek, a farmer grew vegetables for local families. During dry weeks, she moved water from a storage tank through narrow hoses to the crops. This is called irrigation. She also planted beans in a field where corn had grown the year before. Changing crops from year to year can help keep soil healthy. Both choices helped her grow food, even when conditions were difficult.

3. People in Pine Bend also wanted clean water in the creek. Rain could wash loose soil from the new building site into the water. Neighbors planted grass on bare ground to hold the soil in place. They saved rainwater in barrels for their gardens, too. By using less creek water and keeping soil out of it, they protected a resource that people and wildlife need.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did workers change the land to meet families' need for shelter?

2. How did the farmer change the way water reached her crops, and what need did this meet?

3. How did the farmer change what grew in a field, and how could that help meet a need?

4. Describe one change neighbors made to protect the creek. How did it help?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town needs a safe outdoor place for children to play. In two or three sentences, describe one change people could make to the land to meet that need and one effect the change could have on plants, animals, soil, or water.

ANSWER KEY

Pine Bend Changes

GRADE 4 · 4.C.2.5.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three ways people changed the land or water. For each change, circle words that tell what need it helped meet. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did workers change the land to meet families' need for shelter?	**They cleared a small patch of trees and built houses there.**
2	How did the farmer change the way water reached her crops, and what need did this meet?	**She moved water from a storage tank through hoses to help grow vegetables for food.**
3	How did the farmer change what grew in a field, and how could that help meet a need?	**She planted beans where corn had grown before. Changing crops can help keep soil healthy so she can grow food.**
4	Describe one change neighbors made to protect the creek. How did it help?	**They planted grass on bare ground. The grass held soil in place so rain would not wash it into the creek.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People could level a bumpy patch of ground and cover it with wood chips to make a safer play area. This change would cover some grass, so fewer small animals could shelter there.

For question 4, also accept saving rainwater in barrels to use less creek water. For Your Turn, accept a different practical land change if the response connects it to safer play and gives a reasonable effect on the environment.