Changing the Landscape

Identify projects that helped regions grow

4.C.2.5.C "Identify major projects in which Americans have modified the environment for the development of regions (e.g., Mississippi River levees, Hoover Dam, Golden Gate Bridge, Colorado River Aqueduct, Trans-Alaska Pipeline, New York skyline)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name of each major project. Circle words that show how each project changed a place or helped people use it.

Projects That Shaped Regions

1 People change the land and water around them to help regions grow. Along the Mississippi River, workers built levees, raised banks of earth that help keep floodwater away from nearby homes and farms. Farther west, builders put the Golden Gate Bridge across the strait at San Francisco. The bridge connects San Francisco with communities to the north, making travel across the water easier.

2 In the Southwest, the Hoover Dam holds back the Colorado River, forming Lake Mead. The dam helps store water and produces electricity for the region. Another project, the Colorado River Aqueduct, carries water from the Colorado River toward cities in Southern California. These projects change where river water goes or how it is held. They helped growing communities get water and power in a dry area.

3 Some projects cross great distances, while others change a single city's shape. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline carries oil across Alaska from the North Slope to a port at Valdez, where ships can take it farther. In New York City, workers built many tall buildings close together, creating the New York skyline. This changed the city's landscape and made room for offices and homes where land is limited.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which project changed the banks of the Mississippi River, and how did it help nearby communities?

2. How did the Hoover Dam and the Colorado River Aqueduct each change the way people use the Colorado River?

3. Which project changed travel across the water near San Francisco? Explain how.

4. How did the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the New York skyline each change a place to help people?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new town that needs to grow. In three sentences, name one project from the passage as your model, describe a different place where people could build something similar, and explain one benefit and one possible problem.

ANSWER KEY

Changing the Landscape

GRADE 4 · 4.C.2.5.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the name of each major project. Circle words that show how each project changed a place or helped people use it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which project changed the banks of the Mississippi River, and how did it help nearby communities?	**The Mississippi River levees raised the riverbanks to help keep floodwater away from homes and farms.**
2	How did the Hoover Dam and the Colorado River Aqueduct each change the way people use the Colorado River?	**The Hoover Dam holds back river water for storage and helps produce electricity. The aqueduct carries river water toward Southern California cities.**
3	Which project changed travel across the water near San Francisco? Explain how.	**The Golden Gate Bridge connects San Francisco with communities to the north, making travel across the strait easier.**
4	How did the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the New York skyline each change a place to help people?	**The pipeline carries oil across Alaska to a port. The skyline's tall buildings make room for offices and homes where land is limited.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A small mountain town needs a safer way across a deep valley. People could build a bridge like the Golden Gate Bridge to connect the town to a nearby hospital. This could shorten trips for patients, but construction might disturb animal homes.

Accept accurate descriptions in students' own words. For Part 3, look for a named project, a new setting, a plausible benefit, and a possible problem.