# Room for Both

How a growing town can care for its creek

**4.C.2.5.D** "Identify ways in which economic activities can affect ecosystems (e.g., clearing forests,draining wetlands, diverting waterways) by examining present-day issues related to the use of resources and the importance of supporting human..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline three ways people plan to use land or water, then circle an effect each plan could have on living things or their habitats.

### Choices in Cedar Bend

1. In Cedar Bend, families need homes, and builders need places to work. A company plans to clear trees beside a creek for new houses. The houses would give people shelter and create construction jobs. But tree roots hold soil in place. Without many of those roots, rain can wash loose soil into the creek. Muddy water can make it harder for fish to find food.

2. Across town, a shop owner wants to drain a wetland to make a parking lot. More parking could bring in customers and support jobs. Yet the wetland soaks up rainwater like a sponge. It also gives frogs a place to live. If the wetland is drained, nearby streets may flood more often, and frogs lose part of their home. The owner could build parking on dry land instead.

3. Upstream, a farmer needs water to grow vegetables for the town. The farmer could divert creek water into a ditch for the fields. If too much water leaves the creek, fish may have less space to live. The farmer could use drip hoses, which bring small amounts of water straight to plant roots. This saves water for crops while leaving more water in the creek for fish.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could clearing trees for houses help people but make life harder for creek fish?

2. What could happen to both the streets and the frogs if the shop owner drains the wetland?

3. Why might diverting too much creek water help the farmer but harm fish?

4. How could the shop owner add parking while protecting what the wetland does?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your town wants to build a playground beside a patch of wildflowers. In three sentences, explain how the playground could help people, how removing flowers could affect bees, and one way to meet both needs.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Room for Both

**GRADE 4 · 4.C.2.5.D**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three ways people plan to use land or water, then circle an effect each plan could have on living things or their habitats. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How could clearing trees for houses help people but make life harder for creek fish? | **It could provide homes and construction jobs, but soil washing into the creek could make it harder for fish to find food.** |
| 2 | What could happen to both the streets and the frogs if the shop owner drains the wetland? | **Nearby streets may flood more often, and frogs would lose part of their home.** |
| 3 | Why might diverting too much creek water help the farmer but harm fish? | **The farmer could use the water to grow vegetables, but fish may have less space to live in the creek.** |
| 4 | How could the shop owner add parking while protecting what the wetland does? | **The owner could build parking on dry land, leaving the wetland to soak up rainwater and provide a home for frogs.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A playground would give children a place to play. If workers removed the wildflowers, bees would have fewer flowers to visit for food. The town could put the playground on a nearby grassy area and leave the wildflowers growing.

Accept other passage-supported descriptions of the benefits and ecosystem effects. For Your Turn, accept a practical plan that provides play space while keeping flowers available to bees.