Resources Across Regions

Read how location shapes the ways people use natural resources.

4.C.4.2.C "Describe the relative location and importance of natural resources which support human development in each region (e.g., Mid-Continent oilfield, Appalachian and Rocky Mountain coal basins, Ogallala Aquifer, Imperial Valley, Outer Banks)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the Mid-Continent oilfield, Appalachian coal basin, Rocky Mountain coal basins, Ogallala Aquifer, Imperial Valley, and Outer Banks. Underline words that tell where each place is, and put a star beside one way its resources help people.

What Each Region Provides

1. A school bus needs fuel. In the central United States, the Mid-Continent oilfield stretches across parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. Oil from underground helps make fuel for travel and goods made from plastic. In the eastern United States, the Appalachian coal basin holds coal beneath the hills. In the western United States, the Rocky Mountain coal basins hold coal too. People have used coal from both areas to make electricity.

2. Water can shape a region, even when it is hidden. The Ogallala Aquifer lies below parts of the Great Plains, from South Dakota to Texas. An aquifer is a layer of rock and sand that holds groundwater. Farmers pump this water to grow crops where rain may not be enough. In southern California's dry Imperial Valley, farmers bring in water from the Colorado River through canals. That water helps them grow vegetables.

3. Now travel to the Outer Banks, a chain of sandy islands off the coast of North Carolina. The beaches and nearby ocean bring visitors who support local jobs. Fish in the coastal waters provide food and work for fishing crews. The islands also stand between the open ocean and parts of the mainland, though strong storms can still cause damage. Different resources help people in different places, from underground water to coastal waters.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where is the Mid-Continent oilfield, and how does its oil help people?

2. Which coal basin is in the eastern United States, and which is in the western United States? How has coal from both areas helped people?

3. Where are the Ogallala Aquifer and Imperial Valley? How does water help farmers in each place?

4. Where are the Outer Banks? Name two ways resources there support people's lives or work.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one inland resource and one coastal resource from the passage. In four sentences, compare their locations, explain how each helps people, and predict one effect if either resource became harder to use.

ANSWER KEY

Resources Across Regions

GRADE 4 · 4.C.4.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the Mid-Continent oilfield, Appalachian coal basin, Rocky Mountain coal basins, Ogallala Aquifer, Imperial Valley, and Outer Banks. Underline words that tell where each place is, and put a star beside one way its resources help people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where is the Mid-Continent oilfield, and how does its oil help people?	**It stretches across parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas in the central United States. Its oil helps make fuel and goods made from plastic.**
2	Which coal basin is in the eastern United States, and which is in the western United States? How has coal from both areas helped people?	**The Appalachian coal basin is in the east, and the Rocky Mountain coal basins are in the west. People have used coal from both to make electricity.**
3	Where are the Ogallala Aquifer and Imperial Valley? How does water help farmers in each place?	**The Ogallala Aquifer lies below parts of the Great Plains; farmers pump its water to grow crops. Imperial Valley is in southern California; farmers use water brought from the Colorado River to grow vegetables.**
4	Where are the Outer Banks? Name two ways resources there support people's lives or work.	**The Outer Banks are off the coast of North Carolina. Beaches and the ocean bring visitors who support jobs, and fish provide food and work for fishing crews.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Ogallala Aquifer is beneath the Great Plains, far inland, while fish live in coastal waters by the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Farmers use water from the aquifer to grow crops. Fishing crews catch fish for food and work. If the aquifer had less water, farmers might grow fewer crops.

Accept other accurate location comparisons and uses supported by the passage. The predicted effect should be a reasonable result of having less access to the chosen resource.