When Water Rises

How a town responds to flooding, then and now

4.P.1.1.C "Explain challenges of the past and present and describe strategies used to address local, regional, or national problems."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each flooding problem, circle the strategies people use to address it, and write P for past or N for now beside each strategy.

A Town and Its River

1. Many years ago, a town beside a river faced a hard problem each spring. Heavy rain made the river rise over its banks. Water reached homes on low streets before some families knew it was coming. Neighbors rang a bell to warn others. They stacked sandbags near doors to slow the water and used rowboats to carry people to higher ground.

2. Today, that town has more roads and parking lots. Rain cannot soak through pavement, so water runs into streets and drains quickly. After a strong storm, some streets flood even when the river stays inside its banks. The town has built rain gardens beside roads. Soil and plants in these gardens soak up some rainwater, which can reduce street flooding.

3. The river also passes through several nearby towns. When heavy rain falls upstream, water may reach this town hours later. To prepare, the towns share river level reports and send phone alerts when flooding is likely. Families can then leave low areas before roads become unsafe. Alerts do not stop a flood, but they give people more time to get to safety.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did families need a warning in the past, and how did neighbors warn them?

2. How did sandbags and rowboats help people face the rising river in different ways?

3. Why can streets flood today even when the river stays in its banks, and how do rain gardens help?

4. Why do nearby towns share river level reports, and how do phone alerts help families?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your neighborhood playground gets too hot to use on sunny afternoons. In 3 or 4 sentences, explain this local problem and describe two different strategies people could use, including how each one helps.

ANSWER KEY

When Water Rises

GRADE 4 · 4.P.1.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each flooding problem, circle the strategies people use to address it, and write P for past or N for now beside each strategy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did families need a warning in the past, and how did neighbors warn them?	**River water reached homes before some families knew it was coming. Neighbors rang a bell to warn them.**
2	How did sandbags and rowboats help people face the rising river in different ways?	**Sandbags slowed water near doors. Rowboats carried people to higher ground.**
3	Why can streets flood today even when the river stays in its banks, and how do rain gardens help?	**Rain runs off pavement into streets and drains. Rain gardens soak up some of that water and can reduce street flooding.**
4	Why do nearby towns share river level reports, and how do phone alerts help families?	**Rain upstream can send water toward this town. Shared reports help the towns warn families, who can leave low areas before roads become unsafe.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On sunny afternoons, the playground equipment can become too hot to touch. Neighbors could plant shade trees near the play area so their leaves block sunlight as the trees grow. The town could also put up shade sails to give children a cooler place to play right away.

Accept answers that connect each flooding problem to a strategy described in the passage. For Part 3, accept two reasonable, distinct strategies with an explanation of how each addresses playground heat.