Crossing the River

Compare travel routes across time and place

4.P.2.3.A "Answer geographic questions by organizing geographic information from historical as well as contemporary perspectives."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the crossing routes used before 1883, circle the crossing routes used today, and write 1 beside each mention of a route used in both times.

From Brooklyn to Manhattan

1. Brooklyn and Manhattan are parts of New York City separated by the East River. Imagine trying to get from a home in Brooklyn to a job in Manhattan. The question "How do people cross?" has different answers depending on when you ask it. The two places have stayed on opposite sides of the water, but travel choices have changed.

2. Before the Brooklyn Bridge opened in 1883, people could ride ferries across the East River. Ferry boats carried passengers between docks on the two shores. A traveler had to reach a dock, wait for a boat, and then cross the water. The river helped boats travel, yet it also kept travelers from walking or riding a train straight from one shore to the other.

3. Today, a person can walk or ride a bike across the Brooklyn Bridge. Cars also use the bridge. Subway trains travel through tunnels beneath the East River, and ferries still carry passengers on the water. If someone asks how to travel between Brooklyn and Manhattan now, the answer includes more routes. By sorting each route by time period and location, you can explain what changed and what stayed the same.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which crossing route was used both before 1883 and today?

2. Today, which route goes above the river, which goes beneath it, and which stays on the water?

3. How did the choices for crossing from Brooklyn to Manhattan change after 1883?

4. What stayed the same about Brooklyn and Manhattan even though travel routes changed?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a travel note for a visitor in 1880 and a visitor today who each need to go from Brooklyn to Manhattan. In three or four sentences, give each visitor a route, say where each route crosses the river, and explain why their choices differ.

ANSWER KEY

Crossing the River

GRADE 4 · 4.P.2.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the crossing routes used before 1883, circle the crossing routes used today, and write 1 beside each mention of a route used in both times. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which crossing route was used both before 1883 and today?	**Ferries crossed the East River in both time periods.**
2	Today, which route goes above the river, which goes beneath it, and which stays on the water?	**The Brooklyn Bridge goes above the river, subway tunnels go beneath it, and ferries travel on the water.**
3	How did the choices for crossing from Brooklyn to Manhattan change after 1883?	**Before 1883, travelers used ferries. Today, they can also use the Brooklyn Bridge or subway tunnels.**
4	What stayed the same about Brooklyn and Manhattan even though travel routes changed?	**They stayed on opposite sides of the East River, so travelers still need to cross the water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1880, go to a dock in Brooklyn and take a ferry across the East River to a dock in Manhattan. Today, you can walk across the Brooklyn Bridge or take a subway train through a tunnel beneath the river. The visitors have different choices because the bridge did not open until 1883.

Accept any accurate comparison that places ferries in both periods and the bridge or subway tunnels in the present. For the travel note, routes should take each visitor from Brooklyn across the East River to Manhattan.