Places in Relation

Use location clues to explain how places connect.

4.P.2.3.B "Analyze human and physical features of the nation by drawing conclusions and explaining spatial relationships of physical and human places from geographic representations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle three direction words in the passage. For each one, underline the two places or features it helps compare.

A Word Map of the United States

1. Picture a word map of the central United States. The Mississippi River runs south toward the Gulf of Mexico. St. Louis, Missouri, sits beside the river. Farther south, New Orleans, Louisiana, stands near the river's mouth. The river links places far apart: boats can travel between river cities, and water from a wide region flows past them toward the gulf.

2. Now look west of the Mississippi River. The Great Plains stretch across the middle of the country, east of the Rocky Mountains. Kansas City, Missouri, is west of the river and east of Denver, Colorado. Denver sits just east of the Rockies. A traveler going from Kansas City to Denver crosses open plains before reaching the high mountains near Denver.

3. These locations help explain how people use land and water. Farmers on the Great Plains grow crops where much of the land is fairly flat. The Mississippi River provides a route for carrying goods toward the Gulf of Mexico. Denver's position near the Rockies makes it a starting point for trips into the mountains. Location can help us predict what people do in a place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are St. Louis and New Orleans positioned along the Mississippi River? What could travel between them?

2. If you travel west from the Mississippi River toward the Rocky Mountains, which land region would you cross? Explain how you know.

3. How does Denver's location help explain why people might begin mountain trips there?

4. Which city is closer to the Mississippi River's mouth, St. Louis or New Orleans? Use location clues to explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences giving a route from St. Louis to Denver through one city or land region named in the passage. Then write one sentence predicting how the land or water along your route could affect a traveler's plans. Use at least two direction words.

ANSWER KEY

Places in Relation

GRADE 4 · 4.P.2.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle three direction words in the passage. For each one, underline the two places or features it helps compare. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are St. Louis and New Orleans positioned along the Mississippi River? What could travel between them?	**New Orleans is farther south along the river than St. Louis. Boats could travel between the cities.**
2	If you travel west from the Mississippi River toward the Rocky Mountains, which land region would you cross? Explain how you know.	**You would cross the Great Plains because they are west of the river and east of the Rockies.**
3	How does Denver's location help explain why people might begin mountain trips there?	**Denver is just east of the Rockies, so travelers can begin there before heading into the nearby mountains.**
4	Which city is closer to the Mississippi River's mouth, St. Louis or New Orleans? Use location clues to explain.	**New Orleans is closer. It stands near the river's mouth and is farther south than St. Louis.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

From St. Louis, I would travel west to Kansas City. Then I would keep going west across the Great Plains to Denver. The fairly flat land on the plains could make it easier to build a road for my trip.

Accept routes that place the named stop between St. Louis and Denver and use at least two accurate direction words. The prediction should connect a land or water feature on the route to a travel plan.