When Rivers Rise

Compare flood challenges and responses across time.

5.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 one flood challenge from 1927 and one from today. Circle two past strategies and two present strategies used to address those challenges.

Living with the Mississippi River

1. In 1927, weeks of heavy rain swelled the Mississippi River. Levees, long walls of earth built to hold back water, broke in many places. Floodwater covered farms and towns across several states. Families lost homes, and roads became hard to use. Neighbors used boats to carry people to safer ground. The flood showed that one town could not solve a river problem that crossed state lines.

2. After the 1927 flood, the national government expanded a system of levees and floodways along the lower Mississippi River. A floodway gives extra river water a place to flow during a major flood. These changes helped protect many communities, but they could not end flooding everywhere. High water can still rise beyond a levee or enter land outside the protected area. Managing the river takes planning across states.

3. Today, heavy rain still puts communities near the Mississippi at risk. The National Weather Service sends flood forecasts so families have time to move. Local officials may close flooded roads and share safe routes. Some communities also protect wetlands, which can soak up or slow some floodwater. Forecasts, local plans, and land choices work together because no single strategy removes every flood risk.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What challenge did families face in 1927, and how did neighbors respond?

2. How did the national government respond after the 1927 flood? Why could its strategy not end flooding everywhere?

3. What flood challenge remains today? Describe two strategies from the passage that address it.

4. How do a national service and local officials each help people during a flood today?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a long summer heat wave makes it unsafe for people in your town to spend much time outside. In four sentences, explain the problem, describe one local strategy and one regional strategy, and explain how the strategies could work together.

ANSWER KEY # When Rivers Rise

GRADE 5 · 5.P.1.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one flood challenge from 1927 and one from today. Circle two past strategies and two present strategies used to address those challenges. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What challenge did families face in 1927, and how did neighbors respond?	**Floodwater covered towns and families lost homes. Neighbors used boats to take people to safer ground.**
2	How did the national government respond after the 1927 flood? Why could its strategy not end flooding everywhere?	**It expanded levees and floodways. Water could still rise beyond a levee or flood land outside the protected area.**
3	What flood challenge remains today? Describe two strategies from the passage that address it.	**Heavy rain still creates flood risk. Forecasts give families time to move, and local officials close flooded roads and share safe routes. Protecting wetlands is another valid strategy.**
4	How do a national service and local officials each help people during a flood today?	**The National Weather Service sends flood forecasts. Local officials close flooded roads and share safe routes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A long heat wave makes it risky for people in my town to spend time outside. Local leaders could open the library as a cool place for anyone whose home is too hot. A regional health agency could send heat warnings and tips to towns across the area. The warnings would tell people when to seek a cool place, and the library would give them one.

Accept any two present-day strategies named in the passage for question 3. For Your Turn, accept other realistic local and regional strategies if the response explains how they address heat and work together.