Above the Streets

Compare how one place was used in the past and today.

5.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 two details about how the West Side was used in the past, circle two details about how it is used today, and put a star beside one place feature that matters in both periods.

The High Line Then and Now

1. On Manhattan's West Side in New York City, an elevated rail line called the High Line opened in 1934. Trains ran above the streets instead of crossing busy traffic. They brought food and other goods to factories and warehouses along the route. The line stood near the Hudson River, where boats also delivered goods. Together, the rail line and river helped make this part of the city a place for moving supplies.

2. Over time, trucks took over many deliveries, and trains stopped using the High Line in 1980. Some nearby factories and warehouses closed or found new uses. Neighbors worked to save the unused tracks instead of tearing them down. The first section of a public park opened there in 2009. Today, people walk above the streets on a path built along the old rail route.

3. The park follows much of the old rail line on Manhattan's West Side. From the path, visitors can see streets, buildings, and parts of the Hudson River. Some former industrial buildings still stand nearby, but the area also has homes, shops, and places to visit. The same raised route that once kept freight trains away from street traffic now gives walkers a different view of the neighborhood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How was the raised route used in the 1930s, and how is it used today?

2. Why was this West Side location useful for moving goods in the past? Give two location details and explain each one.

3. Name one place feature that stayed and one way the nearby buildings changed between the past and today.

4. How did being above the streets serve people differently when trains used the High Line and today?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine another city has an unused raised rail route beside a river. In three or four sentences, recommend a new use for it, using one past detail and one present detail from the High Line to explain why the location matters.

ANSWER KEY

Above the Streets

GRADE 5 · 5.P.2.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about how the West Side was used in the past, circle two details about how it is used today, and put a star beside one place feature that matters in both periods. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was the raised route used in the 1930s, and how is it used today?	**In the 1930s, freight trains carried goods along it. Today, people use it as a walking path in a park.**
2	Why was this West Side location useful for moving goods in the past? Give two location details and explain each one.	**The rail line ran above the streets, so trains avoided street traffic. The Hudson River was nearby, and boats delivered goods there.**
3	Name one place feature that stayed and one way the nearby buildings changed between the past and today.	**The raised rail route stayed and became a park path. Some nearby factories and warehouses closed or found new uses, and the area now also has homes and shops.**
4	How did being above the streets serve people differently when trains used the High Line and today?	**The height kept freight trains away from street traffic. Today, it lets walkers see the streets, buildings, and parts of the Hudson River from above.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would turn the unused raised rail route beside the river into a walking path. On Manhattan's West Side, trains once carried goods above street traffic to warehouses. Today, people walk on that old route and can see the Hudson River. A raised path in the other city could give walkers river views while keeping them above busy streets.

Accept any accurate past and present details that answer the geographic question. For the open task, the proposed use may differ, but the response should connect a past High Line detail, a present High Line detail, and the importance of the raised route or riverside location.