Why Here?

Use location clues to explain a town's pattern.

6.C.1.1 "Describe geography as a field of inquiry which answers "the why of where" by examining both physical and human geography using spatial thinking skills."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two physical features, circle two places people built, and give each circled place and the physical feature that helps explain its location the same number.

The Pattern of Reed Bend

1. Imagine a town called Reed Bend beside a river. The land near the river is flat, while a low ridge rises to the east. After heavy rain, the river sometimes spills over its banks and covers the lowest ground. A geographer asks, "Why are different places in this town used in different ways?" To investigate, the geographer looks at physical features, such as land height and water, and human features, such as buildings and paths. Thinking about which places are near, far, high, or low helps explain the town's pattern.

2. Families first built homes on the ridge rather than on the flat land beside the river. The ridge stays drier during floods, and a footpath links the homes to the rest of town. Down by the river, workers built a dock where boats can stop. A wide path runs from the dock to a trading square at the foot of the ridge. Sellers bring goods from boats to the square, and people from the ridge can walk down to buy them. The square's location connects two groups of people.

3. Not every place near the river has the same use. Garden plots sit on flat land upstream from the dock, where the soil is moist and workers can reach the plots from a nearby path. However, gardeners move tools to the ridge when a flood is expected. A visitor who only notices the dock might think the town grew around boat travel alone. Comparing the plots, homes, paths, and trading square shows a fuller answer: people use nearby water but also plan for the risk it brings.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did families build homes on the ridge instead of on the low land beside the river? Include a physical reason and a way the homes stay connected to town.

2. Why is the trading square between the dock and the homes on the ridge? Explain how its location helps people.

3. Why do gardeners use the flat land upstream from the dock but move their tools to the ridge before a flood?

4. A visitor says the dock alone explains where everything is in Reed Bend. How do the paths and the risk of flooding show that this answer is incomplete?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a coastal town with a sandy cove, higher inland ground, and a road connecting them. In four sentences, place a boat-repair shop and a storm shelter, giving one physical reason and one human reason for each location.

ANSWER KEY # Why Here?

GRADE 6 · 6.C.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two physical features, circle two places people built, and give each circled place and the physical feature that helps explain its location the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did families build homes on the ridge instead of on the low land beside the river? Include a physical reason and a way the homes stay connected to town.	**The ridge stays drier during floods, and a footpath connects the homes to the rest of town.**
2	Why is the trading square between the dock and the homes on the ridge? Explain how its location helps people.	**Sellers can bring goods from boats at the dock, while people living on the ridge can walk down to buy them.**
3	Why do gardeners use the flat land upstream from the dock but move their tools to the ridge before a flood?	**The flat land has moist soil for gardens, but the ridge is less likely to be covered by floodwater.**
4	A visitor says the dock alone explains where everything is in Reed Bend. How do the paths and the risk of flooding show that this answer is incomplete?	**Paths connect places people use, including the homes, dock, trading square, and gardens. Flood risk also helps explain why homes and stored tools are on the ridge.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would put the boat-repair shop beside the sandy cove because workers could pull boats onto the sand. The road would let workers bring parts to the shop from inland. I would put the storm shelter on higher inland ground because storm water is less likely to reach it. Families near the cove could use the road to reach the shelter.

Accept other locations when students explain them using spatial relationships and both physical and human reasons. For Part 1, valid pairs include homes and ridge or dock and river.