Routes and Ridges

Compare how geography shapes life and travel in two regions.

6.C.1.3 "Compare characteristics of major regions of the Western Hemisphere through the regular use of strategies, such as the Five Themes of Geography (location, place, human-environment-interaction, movement..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a physical feature in each region, circle one way people adapt to the land or climate in each region, and label one travel route in each region 1 or 2 to compare how geography shapes life.

Islands and Mountains

1. In the Caribbean, islands such as Jamaica and Hispaniola rise from the warm Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. Many coastal areas have beaches and low plains, while some inland areas have steep mountains. People grow crops such as bananas where soil and rainfall allow, and ports connect islands with other places by ship. Warm water can fuel hurricanes, so some communities build stronger roofs and plan evacuation routes. A trip between nearby islands may require a boat or plane, even when they look close together on a map.

2. The Andes stretch along the western edge of South America, crossing countries such as Peru and Chile. High peaks and valleys create colder conditions at higher elevations. In some mountain areas, farmers cut terraces into slopes to make flatter places for crops and to slow soil erosion. Roads wind through valleys and over passes, moving food and people between mountain towns and coastal cities. In contrast to sea crossings between Caribbean islands, travel here can be slowed by steep land. Some Andean communities also use llamas to carry goods along mountain paths.

3. Both regions link local communities to wider markets, but their routes face different obstacles. Caribbean ships carry goods from island ports, while trucks can take goods from Andean valleys toward Pacific ports. A hurricane may interrupt travel at sea or damage a Caribbean port. In the Andes, heavy rain can cause a landslide that blocks a mountain road. These challenges show why a region is more than a spot on a globe: its landforms, climate, and travel routes shape how people live and connect with others.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the locations of Caribbean islands and the Andes create different travel challenges?

2. Compare one way people in each region respond to their environment.

3. How do goods move toward other places in each region? Name a route used in each.

4. Compare one event that could interrupt travel in each region. What might each event affect?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose either a Caribbean island community or an Andean mountain town. In three sentences, propose a new way to keep it connected to another place, explain how geography shapes your plan, and describe how you would handle one travel obstacle.

ANSWER KEY

Routes and Ridges

GRADE 6 · 6.C.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a physical feature in each region, circle one way people adapt to the land or climate in each region, and label one travel route in each region 1 or 2 to compare how geography shapes life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the locations of Caribbean islands and the Andes create different travel challenges?	**Water separates Caribbean islands, so travel between them may require a boat or plane. Steep land in the Andes can slow travel on mountain roads.**
2	Compare one way people in each region respond to their environment.	**Some Caribbean communities build stronger roofs or plan evacuation routes because of hurricanes. Some Andean farmers cut terraces into slopes for crops and to slow erosion.**
3	How do goods move toward other places in each region? Name a route used in each.	**Ships carry goods from Caribbean island ports. Trucks take goods from Andean valleys toward Pacific ports.**
4	Compare one event that could interrupt travel in each region. What might each event affect?	**A hurricane could interrupt sea travel or damage a Caribbean port. Heavy rain could cause a landslide that blocks an Andean mountain road.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would place a supply stop along a road between an Andean mountain town and a coastal city. The road would follow a valley because steep slopes make a direct route difficult. If a landslide blocked the road, the stop could share its stored food until trucks could pass again.

Accept comparisons supported by the passage, including boats or planes for island travel and winding roads or mountain paths in the Andes. For the open task, look for a workable connection, a relevant geographic reason, and a response to an obstacle.