Where Should Supplies Go?

Use geographic data to weigh flood risk and road access.

6.C.1 "Analyze data from a geographic perspective using the skills and tools of geography. 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 that affect flooding, and circle one human-built feature that affects access. Use your marks to compare the sites.

Choosing a Supply Center

1 A hurricane is moving toward a Caribbean island. Three communities are deciding where to place an emergency supply center. Geography asks why risks and resources differ from place to place. The model data below give each site's distance from the coast, height above sea level, nearby land or water, and number of roads linking it to town.

MODEL DATA FOR THREE ISLAND SITES

Site	Distance from coast	Height above sea level	Nearby feature	Roads to town
Harbor Point	1 km	2 m	Open coast	1
Riverbend	7 km	5 m	River	2
High Ridge	6 km	80 m	Ridge	1

2 Harbor Point sits close to the shore, where a hurricane can push seawater onto land as storm surge. Riverbend is farther from the coast, but its low ground beside a river may flood during heavy rain. High Ridge stands much higher. Being farther inland does not remove every risk, because water can rise along rivers.

3 Roads matter too. High Ridge has only one road to town, so a blocked road could delay supplies. Riverbend has two roads, but floodwater could make either one unsafe. A planner would compare elevation, nearby water, and road access instead of choosing a site by distance from the coast alone. The data show possible risks, not a certain forecast.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might storm surge threaten Harbor Point? Use two facts from the table.

2. Riverbend is farther from the coast than High Ridge. Why might Riverbend still face a greater flood risk?

3. How could road access make High Ridge less useful than Riverbend for delivering supplies?

4. Which site seems least exposed to flooding from the sea or river? Give two pieces of evidence and one concern about that site.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a fourth site on the island. In three sentences, give its distance from the coast, height above sea level, nearby land or water feature, and number of roads to town, then explain one flood advantage and one access concern.

ANSWER KEY

Where Should Supplies Go?

GRADE 6 · 6.C.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two physical features that affect flooding, and circle one human-built feature that affects access. Use your marks to compare the sites. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might storm surge threaten Harbor Point? Use two facts from the table.	**Harbor Point is only 1 km from the coast and just 2 m above sea level, so seawater pushed ashore could reach it.**
2	Riverbend is farther from the coast than High Ridge. Why might Riverbend still face a greater flood risk?	**Riverbend is beside a river and only 5 m above sea level, so heavy rain could cause river flooding. High Ridge is 80 m above sea level.**
3	How could road access make High Ridge less useful than Riverbend for delivering supplies?	**High Ridge has one road to town, while Riverbend has two. If High Ridge's road is blocked, supplies could be delayed.**
4	Which site seems least exposed to flooding from the sea or river? Give two pieces of evidence and one concern about that site.	**High Ridge seems least exposed because it is 80 m above sea level and is on a ridge. Its only road to town could be blocked.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My site is 10 km from the coast, 60 m above sea level, beside a forest, and has two roads to town. Its height and distance from shore may reduce flood risk. Fallen trees could block both roads during a storm.

Accept other well-supported site choices when students use the model data and distinguish flood risk from road access. For Part 3, check that all four site details are given and that the advantage and concern follow from them.