Stoneford Takes Shape

How one community changes its land

6.C.4.3 "Describe how humans modify the natural environment to support human development, such as subsistence and commercial agriculture, extraction of fossil fuels and minerals, development of industry, and urbanization."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each change people make to the natural environment. Circle the words that tell how each change supports people.

A Valley Becomes a Town

1 Imagine a river valley that becomes the town of Stoneford. At first, families cut small garden plots into grassy land. They grow beans and squash mainly to feed their own households. Later, some farmers clear larger fields and build irrigation ditches to water crops. They sell most of the harvest to other towns. Both kinds of farming change the land, but they support people in different ways: one supplies food at home, while the other also brings in money.

2 Workers dig a coal mine into a nearby hill and open a pit for iron ore. The mine and pit remove rock and soil, changing the shape of the hill. Coal can fuel machines, while iron ore provides metal for tools and buildings after it is processed. A factory rises beside the river. Its workers use coal-powered machines to turn iron into parts for farm equipment. The factory brings jobs, but mining waste and smoke can harm land, water, and air if they are not controlled.

3 As jobs grow, more people move to Stoneford. The town paves roads over soil so trucks can carry crops and factory parts. Builders replace some fields with apartments, stores, and a school, giving workers places to live and meet daily needs. They also put pipes underground to bring clean water to homes. These changes help a growing population, but paved ground absorbs less rain than soil. Heavy rain may run into the river faster, raising the risk of flooding. Town leaders must plan where new buildings and roads go.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the families and the farmers each change the land, and how does each kind of farming support people?

2. How does getting coal and iron ore change the hill, and what can people use each material for?

3. What is built beside the river, and how does it support the people of Stoneford?

4. How do roads and new buildings support Stoneford's growing population? Name one possible effect of paving the ground.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A new community settles on a windy coast beside a marsh. In four or five sentences, describe two changes people could make to the natural environment, explain how each would support the community, and name one possible environmental cost.

ANSWER KEY

Stoneford Takes Shape

GRADE 6 · 6.C.4.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each change people make to the natural environment. Circle the words that tell how each change supports people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the families and the farmers each change the land, and how does each kind of farming support people?	**Families cut small garden plots to grow food for their households. Farmers clear larger fields and build irrigation ditches to grow crops they sell, bringing in money.**
2	How does getting coal and iron ore change the hill, and what can people use each material for?	**The mine and pit remove rock and soil, changing the hill's shape. Coal fuels machines, and processed iron ore provides metal for tools and buildings.**
3	What is built beside the river, and how does it support the people of Stoneford?	**A factory is built beside the river. It provides jobs and makes parts for farm equipment.**
4	How do roads and new buildings support Stoneford's growing population? Name one possible effect of paving the ground.	**Roads let trucks carry crops and factory parts, while buildings provide homes, stores, and a school. Paved ground absorbs less rain, which may increase flood risk.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People could place wind turbines on the grassy coast to generate electricity for homes. They could build homes on raised supports near the marsh to keep living spaces above wet ground. Roads and foundations for the turbines would replace some grasses. Building too close to the marsh could disturb nesting birds.

Accept other changes and uses supported by the passage. For the open task, accept plausible coastal changes when the response explains how both support people and identifies a possible environmental cost.