Patterns on the Land

Use shared features to identify physical regions.

6.C.7.2 "Identify examples of physical regions sharing common features of landforms, climate, vegetation, and natural resources (e.g., Great Plains, New England, Amazonia, Canadian Shield, Altiplano, sun belt, tornado alley)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline landforms, circle climate clues, and number each example of vegetation or a natural resource. Use your marks to spot the pattern of features in each region.

Four Regions, Four Patterns

1 Imagine traveling from the middle of North America to the heart of South America. In the Great Plains, broad, mostly flat land stretches for hundreds of miles. Rainfall varies, but much of this region is drier than the forests to the east. Grasses grow well on the open land, and deep soils support wheat and other crops. Farther south, Amazonia includes a river basin. Its warm, rainy climate supports thick tropical forest. Rivers provide fresh water and routes. These places have different features, yet each covers a wide area with shared traits.

2 In northern North America, the Canadian Shield has ancient bedrock, many lakes, and thin soil. Winters are long and cold, while summers are short. Evergreen trees cover much of its southern part, and mines yield nickel. On the Altiplano in the Andes, people live on a high plateau rather than low plains. Its elevation helps make the air cool, and many areas are dry. Tough grasses grow across open ground. Some places have salt flats and mineral deposits, including tin. Both regions have minerals, but their landforms and plant life differ.

3 A physical region is not a box with identical conditions everywhere. In the Great Plains, some places get more rain than others, so taller grasses may grow in wetter sections. Amazonia also has differences from place to place, yet warm, rainy conditions and forests link much of the basin. When you identify a region, look for a pattern across a large area, not a single tree or rock. Landforms, climate, plants, and useful natural materials can work together as clues to a place's shared character.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which region has open grassland and deep soil used for crops? Give one landform or climate clue that also fits.

2. A traveler reaches a high plateau with tough grasses and tin deposits. Which region is it, and what climate clue fits?

3. Both the Canadian Shield and the Altiplano have minerals. Give one landform feature and one vegetation feature that distinguish the Canadian Shield.

4. How do climate and vegetation help you tell Amazonia apart from the Great Plains? Name one natural resource in Amazonia.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a name for a smaller physical region within one region from the passage. In four sentences, describe its landform, climate, vegetation, and one natural resource, then explain how at least two of those features connect.

ANSWER KEY

Patterns on the Land

GRADE 6 · 6.C.7.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline landforms, circle climate clues, and number each example of vegetation or a natural resource. Use your marks to spot the pattern of features in each region. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which region has open grassland and deep soil used for crops? Give one landform or climate clue that also fits.	**The Great Plains. Its land is broad and mostly flat, and much of it is drier than the forests to the east.**
2	A traveler reaches a high plateau with tough grasses and tin deposits. Which region is it, and what climate clue fits?	**The Altiplano. Its high elevation helps make the air cool, and many areas are dry.**
3	Both the Canadian Shield and the Altiplano have minerals. Give one landform feature and one vegetation feature that distinguish the Canadian Shield.	**The Canadian Shield has ancient bedrock and many lakes. Evergreen trees cover much of its southern part, unlike the Altiplano's open grassland.**
4	How do climate and vegetation help you tell Amazonia apart from the Great Plains? Name one natural resource in Amazonia.	**Amazonia is warm and rainy with thick tropical forest, while much of the Great Plains is drier and covered in grasses. Amazonia's rivers provide fresh water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I call a smaller part of the Great Plains Windgrass Country. Its broad, flat land gets little rain, and grasses cover much of the ground. Deep soil is a useful natural resource for growing wheat. The limited rain helps explain why grasses, rather than thick forests, grow there.

Accept other passage-supported clues for each region. For Your Turn, accept a plausible smaller area with all four requested features and a clear connection between at least two of them.