Beyond the Riverbank

Trace a local problem across communities and oceans.

6.P.1.1.C "Use information to analyze how a specific problem can manifest itself in regional and global issues, describing options for solutions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline how plastic enters the river, circle one effect beyond Pine Bend and one effect beyond the region, and number two solutions at different scales. Use your marks to trace how the problem spreads and how people can respond.

Where Do the Wrappers Go?

1. On Saturday mornings, a busy food market fills a riverfront street in Pine Bend, a made-up town. Vendors sell snacks in plastic wrappers, and some wrappers land on the ground. Rain carries them into storm drains that empty into the river. This is not only an untidy street problem. Turtles may mistake floating plastic for food, and animals can get tangled in larger pieces. The town can add covered trash bins near the stalls and ask vendors to use less packaging. Both steps keep waste out of the water.

2. The river flows through several communities before reaching the coast. Wrappers that escape Pine Bend may wash onto beaches downstream, where cleanup costs are shared by towns that did not create the trash. Plastic can also break into smaller pieces that are hard to collect. Fish and birds may swallow those pieces. Because the river crosses town borders, a single cleanup crew cannot protect every stretch. Downstream towns could work with Pine Bend to collect litter after storms and track where the waste is entering the river.

3. At the coast, some plastic moves into the ocean. Currents can carry it far from its starting point, so river waste can add to a worldwide problem for marine life. Not every wrapper travels that far, but many rivers around the world deliver plastic to the sea. Countries can share ways to reduce throwaway packaging and improve waste collection. They can also work on agreements that limit plastic pollution. River cleanups remove some waste already in the water, while using less packaging prevents waste from being made.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could wrappers dropped in Pine Bend become a problem for towns downstream?

2. How could this river problem add to a global issue, even though not every wrapper reaches the ocean?

3. Why does the passage suggest that towns along the river work together?

4. How does using less packaging address the problem differently from cleaning up the river?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine wind blows plastic wrapping from a shipping warehouse into a stream that joins a river. In four or five sentences, explain one regional effect and one possible global effect, then propose one action at the warehouse and one action communities could take together; explain how each action helps.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Riverbank

GRADE 6 · 6.P.1.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline how plastic enters the river, circle one effect beyond Pine Bend and one effect beyond the region, and number two solutions at different scales. Use your marks to trace how the problem spreads and how people can respond. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could wrappers dropped in Pine Bend become a problem for towns downstream?	**Rain can carry wrappers through storm drains into the river. The wrappers may wash onto downstream beaches, leaving other towns with cleanup costs.**
2	How could this river problem add to a global issue, even though not every wrapper reaches the ocean?	**Some plastic reaches the ocean, where currents can carry it far away. Many rivers deliver plastic to the sea, adding to a worldwide problem for marine life.**
3	Why does the passage suggest that towns along the river work together?	**The river crosses town borders, so one crew cannot protect every stretch. Towns can collect litter after storms and track where it enters the river.**
4	How does using less packaging address the problem differently from cleaning up the river?	**Using less packaging prevents some waste from being made. A river cleanup removes some waste after it has entered the water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Windblown wrapping could travel down the river and wash onto beaches in other towns. If it reaches the ocean, currents could carry it far away and put marine animals at risk. The warehouse could store used wrapping in closed containers so wind cannot carry it away. Communities along the river could coordinate cleanups to remove plastic that has already escaped. These actions prevent new waste and collect waste that is already moving downstream.

Accept other plausible regional and global effects supported by the passage. For Part 3, look for an action at the warehouse that prevents waste from escaping and a shared action that addresses waste across communities.