Whose Block Is It?

Investigate a community choice with no simple answer

6.P.1.2.A "Investigate and propose answers to essential questions representing complex enduring issues across the social studies disciplines."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the enduring question, circle two details from different fields of social studies that could help answer it, and number two groups whose needs differ.

A Block for Cedar Bend

1. In the imagined town of Cedar Bend, a vacant block beside the bus stop once held a small market. After the market closed, the town bought the land. Now residents ask, Who should decide how shared land is used, and whose needs count? This is an enduring question because communities often have limited space and different needs. A paved part of the block floods during heavy rain, and the nearest public park is a long walk from several apartment buildings. Any plan will affect neighbors in different ways.

2. Some residents want a play area where children can gather after school. They point to the long walk to the park. Others want a rain garden, a planted area that could absorb some stormwater before it runs into nearby streets. Shop owners hope for a few parking spaces so customers can stop easily. The town has enough money to build only one main feature this year, and every choice will need upkeep. These ideas connect geography, how water moves through a place, with economics, how limited money is used.

3. At a public meeting, an older resident recalls when the market gave people a place to meet. A renter says people who do not own nearby property should still have a say. The town council, whose members are elected by residents, will vote on a plan next month. Before voting, members could ask who uses the block, where rainwater flows, and what each plan costs over time. A fair answer might combine uses or set a schedule, but the council must explain whose needs its decision serves.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the block's past and its geography make the question about shared land hard to answer? Use one detail about each.

2. Which main feature would you recommend building first? Support your answer with one geography detail and one money detail from the passage.

3. What two questions could the council ask to investigate whether a plan is fair to both renters and shop owners?

4. Write a new essential question about the block that connects its past to a choice today. Give a possible answer supported by the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

After school, one room is available for a quiet study group or a music club that needs space for instruments. In four sentences, state an essential question about sharing limited space, propose a plan, explain how it serves both groups, and name information that might change your plan.

ANSWER KEY

Whose Block Is It?

GRADE 6 · 6.P.1.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the enduring question, circle two details from different fields of social studies that could help answer it, and number two groups whose needs differ. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the block's past and its geography make the question about shared land hard to answer? Use one detail about each.	**The market once gave people a place to meet, but the paved block now floods during heavy rain. The town must weigh a place for people to gather against a way to handle stormwater.**
2	Which main feature would you recommend building first? Support your answer with one geography detail and one money detail from the passage.	**A rain garden is a reasonable first choice because part of the block floods and a rain garden could absorb some stormwater. The town can afford only one main feature this year.**
3	What two questions could the council ask to investigate whether a plan is fair to both renters and shop owners?	**How would renters use the block? How would the plan affect customers who want to stop at nearby shops?**
4	Write a new essential question about the block that connects its past to a choice today. Give a possible answer supported by the passage.	**How can a town keep a shared gathering place while meeting residents' needs today? It could build a play area because the old market gave people a place to meet, and the nearest park is a long walk from several apartment buildings.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

How should a school share a limited room when groups need it for different reasons? The study group could use the room on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the music club could use it on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This gives both groups regular access while meeting their different needs. I would ask how many students attend each group before deciding whether to change the schedule.

Accept different supported recommendations in question 2 and different broad, answerable essential questions in question 4. For Part 3, look for a question that reaches beyond a one-time schedule and a plan that considers both groups.