Where People Settle

Trace how land and water shape life on an island

7.C.2.2 "Describe how the physical environment can influence human population distribution, population growth, settlement patterns, land use, and economic activities."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three different physical features, circle one human choice linked to each feature, and give each linked pair the same number (1, 2, or 3).

A Growing Island Community

1. Imagine Cedar Island, a made-up place with a narrow coast, a raised inland shelf, and steep rocky hills. A stream flows from the hills across the shelf to a sheltered bay. The low shore has deep soil, but seawater sometimes covers it during storms. The shelf stands above storm water and has thin soil. The hills are hard to build on. People first settled beside the bay, where boats could land and the stream supplied fresh water. Their homes formed a long row near the shoreline.

2. As more families arrived, the shore grew crowded. Storm floods damaged several homes, so some families moved onto the shelf beside the stream. They built houses close together along the path down to the bay, rather than spreading into the steep hills. The higher ground reduced flood risk, but its thin soil made large fields difficult. Families kept vegetable gardens in the deeper soil near the shore and built raised beds there to limit flood damage. They avoided putting new homes on that low ground.

3. Most islanders work in fishing, boat repair, or gardening. The sheltered bay makes it easier for fishing boats to launch and return, and the stream provides water for gardens. The community is now considering forty more households. There is room for homes on the shelf near the stream, but homes beside the bay would face storm floods. A path already links the shelf to the bay. The hills have little level ground, so building there would take more work. During dry months, stream water drops, making gardens harder to maintain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did the island's first homes form a row near the bay?

2. As the population grew, why did some families build on the shelf instead of the shore or the hills?

3. How did soil and flooding affect where families placed gardens and new homes?

4. How do the bay and stream support two different kinds of work on the island?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan for the forty new households. Choose where they should build homes, suggest one kind of work they could do, and propose one action to handle a physical challenge. Explain your choices using at least two facts from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Where People Settle

GRADE 7 · 7.C.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three different physical features, circle one human choice linked to each feature, and give each linked pair the same number (1, 2, or 3). Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the island's first homes form a row near the bay?	**The bay offered a place for boats to land, and the nearby stream supplied fresh water.**
2	As the population grew, why did some families build on the shelf instead of the shore or the hills?	**The shelf was above storm floods and was easier to build on than the steep hills. Floods had damaged homes on the shore.**
3	How did soil and flooding affect where families placed gardens and new homes?	**Families kept gardens in the shore's deeper soil and raised the beds to limit flood damage. They placed new homes on the higher shelf instead of the flood-prone shore.**
4	How do the bay and stream support two different kinds of work on the island?	**The sheltered bay helps fishing boats launch and return. The stream supplies water for gardening.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would place the new homes together on the shelf near the stream because it has room and stands above storm water. Some newcomers could repair boats and use the path to reach the sheltered bay. During dry months, they could collect rainwater in covered tanks for their gardens when the stream runs low.

Accept plans that use passage evidence to connect a home location and a kind of work to physical conditions. The proposed action should address a stated challenge, such as flooding or low stream water.