Where People Settle

How land and water shape communities in Bangladesh

7.C.3.2 "Explain the impact of geography on population distribution, density, growth, change, settlement patterns, the availability of resources, and migration."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three geographic features in the passage, then circle one effect each has on where people live. Draw a line connecting each feature to its effect.

Life on a River Delta

1. Bangladesh sits on a low delta where the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers meet the sea. During rainy months, rivers spill over their banks and leave rich soil behind. This soil and the warm, wet climate help farmers grow rice. Many villages sit near rivers because families can reach farmland, fishing areas, and boat routes. As more families settle on the same stretches of land, population density rises. A delta can support large communities, but its low ground also exposes homes and fields to floods.

2. The coast offers fishing and access to trade, yet living near the sea brings another challenge. Storms can push salty water onto fields and into ponds. Rice grows poorly in salty soil, and salty ponds cannot supply safe drinking water. Some families raise homes above floodwater or grow crops that tolerate salt. Others move their homes farther inland, closer to fresh water and safer ground. These choices can shift where people live within the delta, even when the total number of people in the country does not change.

3. Dhaka, a large city inland, receives people from many parts of Bangladesh. A family whose coastal farm has been damaged by saltwater may move there to find work. Jobs and schools attract other newcomers, too. When many people arrive, the city's population grows, and crowded neighborhoods may spread onto low land that floods in heavy rain. The move can lower population in one village while raising it in the city. Geography shapes both the reasons people leave and the places where a growing city can expand.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the rivers help explain why villages near them can have high population density?

2. How can salty water change where families live within the delta?

3. Why might a family leave a coastal farm for Dhaka, and how would that move change population in both places?

4. How does Dhaka's location affect where its growing population may settle?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine an island with a rainy mountain ridge, a dry plain, and one spring at the foot of the ridge. In four sentences, explain where people might settle, how geography could affect population density and access to a resource, and what change might cause people to move.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 7 · 7.C.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three geographic features in the passage, then circle one effect each has on where people live. Draw a line connecting each feature to its effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the rivers help explain why villages near them can have high population density?	**The rivers leave rich soil for growing rice and provide access to fishing and boat routes. These resources attract many families to the same areas.**
2	How can salty water change where families live within the delta?	**Salty water can damage rice fields and drinking-water sources, so some families move inland toward fresh water and safer ground.**
3	Why might a family leave a coastal farm for Dhaka, and how would that move change population in both places?	**Saltwater may damage the farm, while Dhaka offers work. The village could lose residents as Dhaka gains them.**
4	How does Dhaka's location affect where its growing population may settle?	**As newcomers arrive, crowded neighborhoods may spread onto low land around the city that floods in heavy rain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A village might form near the spring at the foot of the ridge. Homes would be closer together there than on the dry plain because families need drinking water. Rain on the ridge could feed the spring and supply the village with water. If a drought dried up the spring, families might move to a place with a reliable water supply.

Accept other cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open task, accept plausible settlement and migration choices that connect the island's geography to water access and population density.