Routes and Risks

Read how a river connects places while shaping choices about land.

7.P.2.3 "Demonstrate a mastery of geographic concepts and the use of geographic tools to understand the impact of geography on the past and present. Answer geographic questions and conduct investigations by acquiring, organizing..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two transport benefits and circle two flood hazards in the passage. Write 1 beside a past event and 2 beside a present-day response to flooding.

Life Along the Rhine

1 From Germany to the Netherlands, the Rhine carries goods toward the North Sea. People have long placed towns beside this water route because boats can move heavy loads. The same low ground can flood when river water rises. Farther inland on higher ground, people have less exposure to coastal storm surges, though they may be farther from major ports.

2 At the Dutch coast, the Rhine's delta connects inland trade routes with ocean shipping. Rotterdam grew into a major port near this meeting point. But low land beside the sea faces storm surges, when winds push seawater inland. In 1953, a North Sea storm surge flooded parts of the southwestern Netherlands and killed more than 1,800 people.

3 After the 1953 disaster, the Netherlands built stronger coastal defenses, including movable storm-surge barriers. Dikes also protect low land along rivers and the coast. These structures reduce flood risk, but they require upkeep and cannot erase it. The table compares three settings along and beyond the Rhine. Use its patterns to connect transport opportunities with different kinds of flood risk.

TRANSPORT AND FLOOD EXPOSURE

Setting	Transport access	Flood exposure
Rhine Valley, Germany	River routes	River floods
Rhine delta, Netherlands	River and sea routes	River floods and storm surges
Higher ground, eastern Netherlands	Road and rail routes	Less exposure to coastal storm surges

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare transport access in the Rhine Valley and the Rhine delta. How could the delta's location help a port grow?

2. Which setting in the table faces both river floods and storm surges? Use the passage to explain how a storm surge happens.

3. How did the 1953 flood influence a later change in the Netherlands?

4. A town wants less exposure to coastal storm surges but still needs land routes. Which table setting best fits? What trade-off does the passage suggest?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new shipping warehouse could be built in the Rhine delta or on higher ground in eastern Netherlands. Write four sentences recommending one site, using two details from the table and one fact from the passage. Include a benefit and a risk or trade-off.

ANSWER KEY

Routes and Risks

GRADE 7 · 7.P.2.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two transport benefits and circle two flood hazards in the passage. Write 1 beside a past event and 2 beside a present-day response to flooding. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare transport access in the Rhine Valley and the Rhine delta. How could the delta's location help a port grow?	**The valley has river routes, while the delta connects river and sea routes. That connection lets goods move between inland places and ocean ships.**
2	Which setting in the table faces both river floods and storm surges? Use the passage to explain how a storm surge happens.	**The Rhine delta faces both hazards. A storm surge happens when winds push seawater inland.**
3	How did the 1953 flood influence a later change in the Netherlands?	**After the deadly flood, the Netherlands built stronger coastal defenses, including movable storm-surge barriers.**
4	A town wants less exposure to coastal storm surges but still needs land routes. Which table setting best fits? What trade-off does the passage suggest?	**Higher ground in eastern Netherlands fits because it has road and rail routes and less exposure to coastal storm surges. It may be farther from major ports.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would build the warehouse in the Rhine delta because it has river and sea routes. The table shows that this setting faces river floods and storm surges. The passage explains that movable storm-surge barriers reduce flood risk but need upkeep. I would accept that risk to keep goods close to shipping routes.

For the marking job, accept any two passage details about moving goods, the river-flood and storm-surge hazards, the 1953 flood as the past event, and coastal defenses or dikes as the present-day response. For Your Turn, accept either site if the four sentences use two accurate table details, one passage fact, and a relevant benefit and risk or trade-off.