Where Should It Go?

Use past and present geographic evidence to weigh a public decision.

TOT.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. Actively engage in asking and answering geographic questions by acquiring, organizing..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the past and present map sources, circle the three factors the council must weigh, and number the sites in the table from closest to farthest from homes. Use your marks to compare what each site offers.

A Clinic for Riverbend

1. Riverbend is a fictional town planning a clinic beside a river. After a 2019 flood, surveyors traced the flooded area on a map. Today, the council uses a geographic information system, or GIS, to place that flood outline over a recent elevation map. The combined view helps officials compare sites, but one past flood cannot show every future flood.

2. A second GIS layer shows where people live, while a field survey records wetlands that construction might remove. The table summarizes three possible sites; its numbers are invented for this case. A site outside the 2019 flood outline may still flood in a larger storm. Distance to homes matters because a distant clinic can be harder to reach.

RIVERBEND CLINIC SITES, FICTIONAL DATA

Site	In 2019 flood area?	Distance to homes (km)	Wetland cleared (hectares)
A	Yes	0.5	0
B	No	2.0	0
C	No	0.8	3

3. The council could choose Site B to avoid the mapped flood area and protect wetlands, but it would place the clinic farther from homes. Site C is closer and also outside the mapped flood area, yet building there would clear wetland. Wetlands can absorb floodwater and provide wildlife habitat. Officials must weigh access, risk, and environmental costs before voting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What can the council learn by placing the 2019 flood outline over the recent elevation map?

2. Which site is outside the 2019 flood area and would clear no wetland? What access cost comes with that choice?

3. Compared with Site B, what would choosing Site C change for residents and the wetland?

4. Why would it be risky to treat the 2019 flood outline as a complete map of future flood risk?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A coastal town is choosing a site for a public library. In four sentences, pose a geographic question, identify one past and one present map layer to compare, explain how the comparison could guide the choice, and name one limit of the evidence.

Where Should It Go?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the past and present map sources, circle the three factors the council must weigh, and number the sites in the table from closest to farthest from homes. Use your marks to compare what each site offers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can the council learn by placing the 2019 flood outline over the recent elevation map?	**The council can compare each site's elevation with the area flooded in 2019 to help assess flood risk.**
2	Which site is outside the 2019 flood area and would clear no wetland? What access cost comes with that choice?	**Site B meets both conditions, but at 2.0 km from homes, it is the farthest site.**
3	Compared with Site B, what would choosing Site C change for residents and the wetland?	**Site C would put the clinic closer to homes, 0.8 km rather than 2.0 km away, but construction would clear 3 hectares of wetland instead of none.**
4	Why would it be risky to treat the 2019 flood outline as a complete map of future flood risk?	**The outline shows only one past flood. A larger future storm could flood places outside it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Which library site would be reachable by more residents without exposing visitors to storm surge? I would compare a map of streets flooded during a past storm with a current map of homes and roads. A site near many homes but outside the earlier flood area might balance access and risk. One storm map cannot show how far a stronger storm could reach.

Accept other comparisons that correctly use the table and explain a tradeoff. For Part 3, accept different relevant map layers if the response distinguishes past from present evidence and identifies a real limit.