River's Turning Point

Notice how each paragraph builds the reader's understanding.

6.T.SS.1 "Organization: Analyze and use organizational structures to craft meaning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Write a short margin label that tells the main job of each paragraph. Underline one detail in each paragraph that supports your label.

A River Changes Course

1. Along the Cuyahoga River in Ohio, decades of industrial waste and sewage damaged the water. By the 1960s, oil and chemicals sometimes floated on the river's surface. In 1969, pollution on the river caught fire, drawing national attention. Fish populations had fallen, and many people avoided the riverbanks. The fire was not the only reason for change, but it became a powerful image of the river's poor condition. Factories and cities upstream released much of the pollution before stronger environmental rules existed.

2. After the fire, local groups, businesses, and governments began working to clean the river. The federal Clean Water Act of 1972 set rules for pollution released into waterways. Cities improved sewage-treatment systems, and industries changed some waste-disposal practices. Volunteers also removed trash from riverbanks and planted native vegetation. These efforts took years, and cleanup projects continued in different parts of the watershed. Scientists tested the water and tracked which fish and insects returned over time.

3. Today, parts of the Cuyahoga support fish, birds, and people who paddle or walk beside the water. Water quality has improved, although challenges remain after heavy rain and in some polluted areas. In 2019, the river was named an American River of the Year by the nonprofit American Rivers. The river's history is often used when communities discuss how laws, public action, and long-term monitoring can change a damaged waterway over several decades for future users.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main job of each paragraph? Describe how the three paragraph jobs are connected.

2. Why does the writer begin with the river's condition before describing the cleanup work?

3. Give two details from paragraph 2 that show the passage has moved from describing conditions to describing action.

4. How does paragraph 3 work as an ending for this passage? Use two details from that paragraph in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three short paragraphs about a real environmental or community improvement. Organize paragraph 1 to show the starting condition, paragraph 2 to explain actions people took, and paragraph 3 to describe results or remaining concerns. Include at least one specific fact or example in each paragraph.

ANSWER KEY

River's Turning Point

GRADE 6 · 6.T.SS.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Write a short margin label that tells the main job of each paragraph. Underline one detail in each paragraph that supports your label. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main job of each paragraph? Describe how the three paragraph jobs are connected.	**Paragraph 1 describes the river's polluted condition. Paragraph 2 explains cleanup actions. Paragraph 3 describes improvements, remaining challenges, and the river's larger significance.**
2	Why does the writer begin with the river's condition before describing the cleanup work?	**The opening establishes why cleanup was needed, so the later actions and changes make sense.**
3	Give two details from paragraph 2 that show the passage has moved from describing conditions to describing action.	**Answers may include the Clean Water Act setting pollution rules, cities improving sewage-treatment systems, industries changing waste-disposal practices, volunteers removing trash and planting vegetation, or scientists testing water.**
4	How does paragraph 3 work as an ending for this passage? Use two details from that paragraph in your answer.	**It brings the topic to the present by describing improved water quality and ongoing challenges, and it shows the river's importance through its 2019 American River of the Year recognition and its lesson for other communities.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the 1970s, bald eagles had become rare in much of the lower 48 United States. The pesticide DDT built up in food chains and caused eagle eggshells to become thin. Habitat loss also made nesting more difficult.

In 1972, the United States banned most uses of DDT. Wildlife agencies protected nesting areas, and the Endangered Species Act helped protect bald eagles in many states. Biologists also monitored eagle nests and counted young birds.

Bald eagle numbers rose over time, and the species was removed from the federal endangered species list in 2007. Eagles still face dangers, including lead poisoning and habitat loss. Their recovery shows how laws, habitat protection, and monitoring can work together.

Accept different margin labels if they accurately identify the role of each paragraph and are supported by underlined evidence. For the writing task, accept any accurate topic with a clear starting condition, actions, and results or remaining concerns. Check three visible paragraphs organized as starting condition, actions and results/remaining concerns, with at least one specific detail in each.