Shoreline Choices

Build an objective summary from central ideas and important limits.

9-10.RI.2.b "Provide an objective summary of the text to support analysis."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one key idea in each paragraph and circle two conditions that limit where living shorelines work. Use your marks to build a balanced, objective summary.

A Coast That Can Change

1 Along many sheltered coasts, waves slowly carry soil away from the water's edge. Property owners have often built seawalls to hold the shoreline in place. A wall can protect the land directly behind it, but waves that strike its hard surface may scour the bottom nearby. In some locations, communities instead build living shorelines, using plants, sand, and other natural materials to stabilize the coast. These projects do not simply leave nature alone. Workers place materials in a planned arrangement and monitor what happens as waves, tides, and storms reshape the site.

2 One living shoreline design includes a low reef made of oyster shells or structures that oysters can attach to. As waves cross the reef, some of their energy is lost before they reach the bank. Marsh grasses planted behind the reef help hold sediment with their roots, while their stems slow moving water. Oysters can also filter particles from the water as they feed, although a single reef cannot clean an entire bay. Together, the reef and plants may create habitat for other animals. The project protects shorelines partly by working with coastal processes rather than blocking water completely.

3 Living shorelines are not suitable for every stretch of coast. A site exposed to strong waves or heavy boat traffic may need a different design, and space is required for plants to grow. A new reef also needs time for oysters to settle and build up; storms can damage a project before it becomes established. Planners therefore study local conditions and sometimes combine natural features with a built barrier. Unlike a single concrete wall, a living shoreline can change as plants spread and sediment collects, but its success depends on careful placement and continued observation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two ideas from paragraph 1 belong in a brief objective summary of the choices it introduces?

2. Summarize how the reef and grasses in paragraph 2 help protect the bank in one sentence.

3. Which limitation from paragraph 3 should a balanced summary include, and why?

4. A reader claims that living shorelines always work better than walls. Summarize the evidence in paragraph 3 that challenges this claim.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word objective summary of the entire passage. Then add one sentence explaining how your summary supports an analysis of the passage's main idea.

ANSWER KEY # Shoreline Choices

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one key idea in each paragraph and circle two conditions that limit where living shorelines work. Use your marks to build a balanced, objective summary. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two ideas from paragraph 1 belong in a brief objective summary of the choices it introduces?	**Seawalls can protect land but may cause scouring nearby; living shorelines use arranged natural materials to stabilize the coast.**
2	Summarize how the reef and grasses in paragraph 2 help protect the bank in one sentence.	**The reef reduces wave energy before waves reach the bank, while grasses slow water and hold sediment.**
3	Which limitation from paragraph 3 should a balanced summary include, and why?	**Strong waves can make a site unsuitable; including this shows that living shorelines do not work equally well everywhere.**
4	A reader claims that living shorelines always work better than walls. Summarize the evidence in paragraph 3 that challenges this claim.	**Living shorelines need suitable conditions, room for plants, and time to become established. Planners may need to combine natural features with a built barrier.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Coastal waves can erode shorelines, and seawalls protect land but may increase scouring nearby. Living shorelines offer another approach by arranging natural materials to stabilize the coast. Oyster reefs weaken incoming waves, while marsh grasses slow water and hold sediment; these features may also provide habitat. However, strong waves, boat traffic, limited space, and the time oysters need to establish can restrict their use. Planners must study each site and monitor the project, sometimes adding built structures. These details support the idea that living shorelines can protect coasts, but their effectiveness depends on local conditions.

Accept accurate paraphrases that distinguish how living shorelines work from where they may not work. The final summary should remain neutral and include both their potential benefits and their limits.