

When Water Changes

Trace how floods and droughts affect living things.

3.12.C “describe how natural changes to the environment such as floods and droughts cause some organisms to thrive and others to perish or move to new locations; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each natural change in the environment. Circle words that tell whether an organism thrived, perished, or moved, so you can connect the change to its effects.

Changes at Pine Creek

- ① After three days of hard rain, Pine Creek rose over its banks. Water covered the grassy ground beside the creek and filled many small animal burrows. Fish spread into the new shallow water, where they found insects and worms. A heron stood at the edge and caught fish more easily. However, mice and ground beetles left the flooded ground to find dry shelter.
- ② When rushing water pulled soil from a creek bank, some young plants lost their roots and died. Other plants bent under the water but stayed alive. Their roots held them in place. When the water went down, seeds carried by the flood were left on wet soil. These seeds could grow, giving new plants a chance to thrive near the creek.
- ③ Later, a long drought brought little rain to the same area. The creek became narrow, and a nearby pond grew smaller each week. Frogs crowded into the remaining wet places, where they could stay moist. Some frogs moved toward a deeper pond. Fish that could not reach deeper water had less oxygen and food, so some perished. Dry grass also gave rabbits less to eat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the flood help fish and the heron?

2 Why did mice and ground beetles move after the flood?

3 Why did some young plants perish during the flood?

4 How did the drought affect frogs differently from fish?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write 3 sentences about a flood or drought in a different environment. Name the change, tell how one organism thrives, and tell how a different organism perishes or moves to a new place.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each natural change in the environment. Circle words that tell whether an organism thrived, perished, or moved, so you can connect the change to its effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the flood help fish and the heron?	Fish found insects and worms in the new shallow water. The heron caught fish more easily at the water's edge.
2	Why did mice and ground beetles move after the flood?	Floodwater covered the ground and filled small animal burrows, so they moved to dry shelter.
3	Why did some young plants perish during the flood?	Rushing water pulled soil from the creek bank, and the young plants lost their roots and died.
4	How did the drought affect frogs differently from fish?	Frogs crowded into wet places or moved toward a deeper pond. Fish that could not reach deeper water had less oxygen and food, so some perished.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A drought dries a desert water hole. Lizards find insects near the last wet edge, so they thrive there. Deer move to a place with more water because the dry plants do not give them enough food.

Accept any accurate flood or drought scenario that names the environmental change and explains different effects on two organisms. The response must show one organism thriving and another organism perishing or moving.