Changing Riverbend

Read how human choices reshape land, water, and habitats.

3.3.C "describe the effects of human processes such as building new homes, conservation, and pollution in shaping the landscape."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action people take. Circle the landscape effect linked to each action, so you can see how people change land and water.

Choices Along a Creek

1. At the edge of Riverbend, a field once held tall grass, wildflowers, and rabbit burrows. Workers cleared some plants and built homes, streets, and sidewalks. Rain that once soaked into the field now runs faster over hard surfaces. The extra runoff can carry soil into a nearby creek and can make the creek water muddy after storms.

2. People can also choose to conserve land. At Riverbend Creek, neighbors planted native trees along the bank and left a wide strip of grasses beside the water. Plant roots hold soil in place. The trees give birds places to nest, and the grasses slow runoff. These actions help keep the creek clearer and protect a small habitat.

3. Pollution can shape the same landscape in harmful ways. One summer, litter and leaked motor oil washed from a parking lot into Riverbend Creek. The water smelled bad, and fewer insects lived near the shore. Fish and birds have less food when insects disappear. Cleaning up litter and preventing leaks can reduce this pollution and help the creek recover.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did building homes, streets, and sidewalks change what happened when it rained?

2. What did the native trees and grasses do to conserve the creek bank?

3. How did litter and motor oil affect animals near Riverbend Creek?

4. Compare building homes with conserving land. How did each action affect runoff or soil?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Draw an area beside a pond before and after people use one process: building, conservation, or pollution. Label two changes to the landscape, then write one sentence that explains how the human process caused those changes.

ANSWER KEY

Changing Riverbend

GRADE 3 · TEKS 3.3.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each action people take. Circle the landscape effect linked to each action, so you can see how people change land and water. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did building homes, streets, and sidewalks change what happened when it rained?	**Rain ran faster over hard surfaces. The runoff could carry soil into the creek and make the water muddy.**
2	What did the native trees and grasses do to conserve the creek bank?	**Tree roots held soil in place, and grasses slowed runoff. The plants also helped keep the creek clearer and protected habitat.**
3	How did litter and motor oil affect animals near Riverbend Creek?	**Fewer insects lived near the shore. Fish and birds had less food when the insects disappeared.**
4	Compare building homes with conserving land. How did each action affect runoff or soil?	**Building created hard surfaces, so runoff moved faster and could carry soil away. Conservation plants held soil and slowed runoff.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Panel 1: A bare pond edge has loose soil and cloudy water. Panel 2: People plant grasses beside the pond, and the water is clearer. Sentence: Planting grasses holds the soil in place and slows runoff into the pond.

Accept accurate before-and-after sketches showing one human process and two related landscape effects. Labels and the sentence should clearly connect the human action to changes in land, water, or habitat.