

Land Choices

Compare communities and the ways people shape their surroundings.

3.3 "Geography. The student understands how humans adapt to and/or modify the physical environment. The student is expected to: describe similarities and differences in the physical environment, including climate, landforms, natural resources..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that describe climate, landforms, natural resources, or hazards, and circle actions people take to adapt to or change the land so you can compare the communities.

Three Places, Many Choices

- ① Communities have physical environments that are alike in some ways and different in others. In the Dry Creek desert, days are often hot, rain is scarce, and sand and rocky hills cover much of the land. Sunlight is a natural resource there. Flash floods can rush through dry streambeds after a heavy storm, creating a natural hazard.
- ② People in Dry Creek adapt by collecting rainwater in tanks and building homes on higher ground away from streambeds. Far away, Willow Marsh is a wetland with wet soil, ponds, and many plants. Its climate is wetter than Dry Creek's. People there build raised walkways so they can travel above muddy ground. Both communities use nearby natural resources, but their landforms and weather are different.
- ③ On the nearby Green Plains, people build new homes and roads. Clearing grass for these projects can change animal homes and cause rainwater to run faster over the land. Some neighbors conserve the plains by planting native grasses along a creek. Pollution, such as trash or oil in the water, can harm plants and animals. These human choices shape the landscape over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What natural resource and natural hazard are named in Dry Creek?

2 How are Dry Creek and Willow Marsh different in climate and land?

3 How do people adapt differently in Dry Creek and Willow Marsh?

4 What effect can clearing grass have, and what effect can pollution have?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a mountain community. Write four sentences that describe its climate and landform, name one natural resource or hazard, explain one way people adapt to or change the land, and tell one effect of that action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that describe climate, landforms, natural resources, or hazards, and circle actions people take to adapt to or change the land so you can compare the communities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What natural resource and natural hazard are named in Dry Creek?	Sunlight is a natural resource. Flash floods are a natural hazard.
2	How are Dry Creek and Willow Marsh different in climate and land?	Dry Creek is hot and dry with sand and rocky hills. Willow Marsh is wetter with wet soil and ponds.
3	How do people adapt differently in Dry Creek and Willow Marsh?	In Dry Creek, people collect rainwater and build on higher ground. In Willow Marsh, people build raised walkways above muddy ground.
4	What effect can clearing grass have, and what effect can pollution have?	Clearing grass can change animal homes and make rainwater run faster over the land. Pollution can harm plants and animals.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pine Peak is a cold mountain community with steep slopes. It has pine trees, a natural resource, and avalanches can be a hazard. People build homes on flatter land and use strong roofs for heavy snow. Building roads on the slopes can remove trees and change animal homes.

Accept accurate wording that identifies the passage details. For Your Turn, accept another physical environment if the student includes all four requested parts and gives a logical effect.