

Texas Land Changes

Notice how people use and change Texas environments.

4.8.A “describe ways people have adapted to and modified their environment in Texas, past and present, such as timber clearing, agricultural production, wetlands drainage, energy production, and construction of dams;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action people took to adapt to or modify the environment. Circle words that tell why people took the action or how the environment changed.

People and Texas Land

- ① Texas communities have always worked with the land and changed it. Long ago, people cleared some forests for homes, roads, and fields. Clearing timber gave builders wood and opened land for farming, but it also removed habitats for some animals. People adapted by using nearby trees and flat land to meet their needs for their families.
- ② Farmers adapted to Texas weather by growing crops where soil and rain could support them. In some places, people built irrigation channels to bring water to dry fields. They also drained wetlands so the land could be farmed or built on. Draining wetlands changed a watery habitat and could reduce places where fish, birds, and other wildlife live.
- ③ Texas also produces energy. Workers have drilled wells for oil and natural gas, and today people use wind turbines and solar panels in many areas. These choices use Texas resources in different ways. People have built dams across some rivers to store water, control floods, and make electricity. A dam creates a reservoir, but it also changes the river's flow and nearby habitats.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did people clear timber, and what was one environmental result of clearing it?

2 How did farmers adapt to Texas weather? How did irrigation channels modify dry fields?

3 Why did people drain wetlands? What could happen to wildlife habitat after wetlands were drained?

4 Name two ways Texas produces energy besides dams. Then give one job of a dam and one way it changes the environment.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about a Texas community using a natural condition, such as sun, wind, rain, trees, or a river. Explain how the community adapts to or modifies that condition, why people do it, and one change it could cause to the environment.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action people took to adapt to or modify the environment. Circle words that tell why people took the action or how the environment changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did people clear timber, and what was one environmental result of clearing it?	People cleared timber for homes, roads, and fields, and it removed habitats for some animals.
2	How did farmers adapt to Texas weather? How did irrigation channels modify dry fields?	Farmers grew crops where soil and rain could support them. Irrigation channels brought water to dry fields.
3	Why did people drain wetlands? What could happen to wildlife habitat after wetlands were drained?	People drained wetlands to farm or build on the land. Drainage could reduce places where fish, birds, and other wildlife live.
4	Name two ways Texas produces energy besides dams. Then give one job of a dam and one way it changes the environment.	Texas produces energy with oil and natural gas wells, wind turbines, or solar panels. A dam can store water, control floods, or make electricity, and it changes a river's flow or nearby habitats.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a sunny part of Texas, a community puts solar panels on open land. This adapts to the sunny climate and produces electricity. The panels change how the land is used, so planners should protect nearby wildlife habitat.

Accept correctly stated purposes and environmental effects from the passage. For the open response, accept any accurate Texas-based example that includes an action, a reason, and an environmental change in exactly three sentences.