

Changing Texas Places

Read how Texans use and change their environment.

4.8.B “explain reasons why people have adapted to and modified their environment in Texas, past and present, such as the use of natural resources to meet basic needs, facilitate transportation, and enhance recreational activities; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that shows people changing the environment. In the margin, write B for a basic need, T for transportation, or R for recreation when the passage tells why the change was made.

People and Places in Texas

- ① Long ago, people in Texas chose places near rivers and springs. They used water for drinking and cooking. They gathered plants, hunted animals, and built shelters from wood, grass, or stone found nearby. These choices helped families meet basic needs. Living close to water also meant people had to adapt to floods, heat, and dry times.
- ② Today, Texans still use natural resources, but they often change the land to make life easier. Farmers use soil and water to grow food. Ranchers use grasslands for cattle. In some places, people build dams to store water for homes and farms. Dams can help during dry periods, yet they also change how water moves through a river.
- ③ Transportation has changed Texas environments too. Roads, bridges, and rail lines help people cross long distances and move goods. Along the Gulf Coast, ports were built so ships could carry products. Texans also modify places for fun. Parks may have trails, boat ramps, or campsites. These changes let people hike, fish, swim, and travel, but builders must protect water, plants, and animals.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did people choose to live near rivers and springs long ago? What challenge did living near water bring?

2 How do farmers and ranchers use natural resources to meet basic needs?

3 Why are dams built, and how do they modify a river environment?

4 Name one change made for transportation and one change made for recreation. Tell how each change helps people.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about a Texas place where people could use a natural resource and change the environment. Include the resource, the change, why people would make it, and one way to protect the place.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that shows people changing the environment. In the margin, write B for a basic need, T for transportation, or R for recreation when the passage tells why the change was made. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did people choose to live near rivers and springs long ago? What challenge did living near water bring?	They needed water for drinking and cooking. They had to adapt to floods, heat, and dry times.
2	How do farmers and ranchers use natural resources to meet basic needs?	Farmers use soil and water to grow food. Ranchers use grasslands for cattle.
3	Why are dams built, and how do they modify a river environment?	Dams store water for homes and farms and can help during dry periods. They change how water moves through a river.
4	Name one change made for transportation and one change made for recreation. Tell how each change helps people.	Transportation changes may include roads, bridges, rail lines, or ports, which help people or goods travel. Recreation changes may include trails, boat ramps, or campsites, which help people hike, fish, swim, or camp.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a Texas lake, people could build a boat ramp so families can reach the water for fishing. The lake water is a natural resource that supports recreation. Workers should keep trash out of the water to protect fish and people.

Accept accurate examples and explanations from the passage for Questions 1 through 4. For the open response, accept reasonable Texas-based ideas that name a resource, a human change, a purpose, and a protection step.