

Changing Texas Places

Read how Texans have changed land and water, then weigh the results.

4.8 "Geography. The student understands how people adapt to and modify their environment. The student is expected to: describe ways people have adapted to and modified their environment in Texas, past and present, such as timber clearing..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each way people changed Texas land or water. Circle one benefit and draw a box around one cost in each paragraph.

People and Texas Environments

- ① Texas communities have changed land and water for many years. In East Texas, people cleared some forests for timber and farmland. Farmers grew crops and raised animals to provide food and jobs. These changes used natural resources, but clearing too many trees can wash soil into streams and remove homes for wildlife during heavy rains.
- ② People also built dams on Texas rivers to store water, control some floods, and make electricity. Reservoirs behind dams can offer boating and fishing. However, dams can block fish movement and change river habitats. In some places, people drained wetlands to create fields or building space. Draining wetlands can reduce habitat and lessen the land's ability to hold floodwater.
- ③ Texas has long produced energy from oil and natural gas, and today it also uses wind and sunlight. Energy production provides power for homes, schools, and businesses. Roads, bridges, and buildings make travel and daily life easier. Yet wells, power projects, and construction can disturb land, create pollution, or break up animal habitats. People must weigh these benefits and costs when planning changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did clearing forests meet people's needs, and what was one possible cost?

2 Give one reason people built dams and one recreational activity reservoirs can provide.

3 Compare one benefit and one cost of draining wetlands.

4 How do energy production and construction help people, and what harm can they cause?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A Texas town is considering draining a wetland for new fields. Write three sentences that state what the town wants, name one benefit and one cost, and give your recommendation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each way people changed Texas land or water. Circle one benefit and draw a box around one cost in each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did clearing forests meet people's needs, and what was one possible cost?	Clearing forests provided timber and farmland for food and jobs. It could wash soil into streams or remove wildlife homes.
2	Give one reason people built dams and one recreational activity reservoirs can provide.	People built dams to store water, control some floods, or make electricity. Reservoirs can provide boating or fishing.
3	Compare one benefit and one cost of draining wetlands.	Draining wetlands can create fields or building space. It can reduce habitat and lessen the land's ability to hold floodwater.
4	How do energy production and construction help people, and what harm can they cause?	They provide power and make travel and daily life easier. They can disturb land, create pollution, or break up animal habitats.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The town wants to drain the wetland to make fields for growing crops. New fields could provide food and jobs, but drainage could remove wildlife habitat and leave less land to hold floodwater. I recommend keeping most of the wetland and using a smaller area for fields.

Accept equivalent benefits and costs stated in the passage. For the open response, accept any reasonable recommendation that includes a goal, a benefit, a cost, and a clear recommendation.