

Desert Changes

How people use skills and labor to meet needs in a dry place.

5.8.A “describe how and why people have adapted to and modified their environment in the United States such as the use of human resources to meet basic needs; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each way people changed or adjusted to the environment, circle the basic need it helps meet, and number three examples of human resources 1, 2, and 3.

Living with Desert Water

- ① In the dry Southwest, many communities receive little rain. Long ago, the Hohokam dug canals from the Salt River to fields near what is now Phoenix, Arizona. Their workers used knowledge, planning, and labor to move water. The canals changed the land, allowing people to grow corn, beans, and squash. Farming helped families meet their need for food in a hot, dry place.
- ② Today, people in the same region still depend on human resources, including engineers, construction workers, farmers, and water managers. Engineers designed dams and pipes that store and carry river water. Farmers use drip irrigation, which sends small amounts of water to plant roots. These changes help grow food while using less water. People made these modifications because water is limited and crops need steady moisture.
- ③ People also adapt their daily lives to the desert climate. Builders use thick walls, insulation, shade trees, and covered patios to keep homes cooler. Families may collect rainwater for gardens and choose plants that need little water. These choices do not change a whole river or valley. Instead, people adjust how they live so they can have shelter, save water, and stay safer during extreme heat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Hohokam modify their environment, and what basic need did this help them meet?

2 Name two human resources in the passage. What did one of them do to help people use water?

3 How does drip irrigation change how farmers use water? Why is it useful in the Southwest?

4 Give one modification and one adaptation from the passage. How are they different?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a United States environment, such as a coast, forest, mountain, city, or desert. Write three sentences that describe one way people modify or adapt to it, name a human resource involved, and explain the basic need the action helps meet.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each way people changed or adjusted to the environment, circle the basic need it helps meet, and number three examples of human resources 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Hohokam modify their environment, and what basic need did this help them meet?	They dug canals from the Salt River to fields. The water helped them grow food.
2	Name two human resources in the passage. What did one of them do to help people use water?	Answers may name engineers, construction workers, farmers, water managers, or Hohokam workers. Engineers designed dams and pipes that store and carry river water.
3	How does drip irrigation change how farmers use water? Why is it useful in the Southwest?	It sends small amounts of water to plant roots. It helps farmers use less water where water is limited.
4	Give one modification and one adaptation from the passage. How are they different?	A modification could be canals, dams, or pipes. An adaptation could be thick walls, insulation, shade trees, covered patios, collecting rainwater, or choosing low-water plants. Modifications change the environment, while adaptations adjust how people live in it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In coastal Louisiana, people build levees to help protect homes from flooding. Engineers and construction workers use their knowledge and labor to design and build the levees. This environmental modification helps communities meet the basic need for shelter and safety.

Accept accurate examples from the passage and explanations that connect changes or adaptations to food, water, shelter, or safety. For the open response, accept a different accurate United States example if it includes an action, a human resource, and a basic need.