

Desert Water Choices

How people change environments to meet needs

5.8 "Geography. The student understands how people adapt to and modify their environment. The student is expected to: describe how and why people have adapted to and modified their environment in the United States such as the use of human..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each way people adapt to or modify the environment, circle each positive consequence, and draw a box around each negative consequence.

Living With Desert Water

- ① In dry southern Nevada, Las Vegas receives little rain. People adapted by using human resources, including engineers, construction workers, and water managers, to bring water from the Colorado River through pipes and canals. Homes, schools, hotels, and gardens need water every day. Workers also set rules that limit outdoor watering, helping residents meet a basic need while living in a desert.
- ② Upstream, Hoover Dam, completed in 1936, changed the river by holding back water to form Lake Mead. The dam provides hydroelectric power and stores water for cities and farms. This modification has helped people use water and electricity. However, the dam and heavy water use have changed river habitats. During droughts, lower water levels can threaten water supplies and affect fish and other wildlife.
- ③ People can also reduce the harm caused by modification. Landscapers install drip irrigation, which sends small amounts of water to plant roots. Recycling systems clean some used water for golf courses or parks instead of drinking. These choices use workers' knowledge and tools. They can save water, but pipes, pumps, and treatment plants cost money and use energy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did people in Las Vegas need engineers, construction workers, and water managers?

2 Name one positive consequence and one negative consequence of Hoover Dam and water use.

3 How does drip irrigation help people adapt to living in a dry place?

4 What is one benefit and one cost of recycling used water for parks or golf courses?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a different place in the United States. In four sentences, describe one way people adapt to or modify the environment to help meet a basic need, then explain one positive and one negative consequence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each way people adapt to or modify the environment, circle each positive consequence, and draw a box around each negative consequence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did people in Las Vegas need engineers, construction workers, and water managers?	Las Vegas receives little rain, so workers were needed to bring Colorado River water through pipes and canals and manage its use.
2	Name one positive consequence and one negative consequence of Hoover Dam and water use.	A positive consequence is stored water or hydroelectric power for cities and farms. A negative consequence is changed river habitats, lower water supplies during drought, or harm to fish and other wildlife.
3	How does drip irrigation help people adapt to living in a dry place?	It sends small amounts of water directly to plant roots, helping people use less water for plants.
4	What is one benefit and one cost of recycling used water for parks or golf courses?	It can save drinking water. It also requires pipes, pumps, and treatment plants that cost money and use energy.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In coastal Louisiana, people build levees to help protect homes and roads from floodwater. Engineers and construction workers use soil, rock, and machines to build and repair them. A positive result is that levees can lower flood risk for nearby communities. A negative result is that levees can stop river sediment from reaching wetlands, which can contribute to wetland loss.

Accept equivalent passage-based descriptions of adaptations, modifications, and consequences. For the open response, accept a factual United States example that explains a basic need and includes one reasonable positive and negative consequence.