

Where People Settle

Explain how water, land, resources, and travel routes shape population patterns.

6.3.A "identify and explain the geographic factors responsible for patterns of population in places and regions;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each geographic factor that affects settlement, and number each statement that tells where people live in large or small groups.

Egypt's Uneven Population

- ① Most Egyptians live near the Nile River, although Egypt has a much larger land area beyond its banks. The river supplies fresh water for drinking, washing, and farming. Its yearly floods once left rich soil on nearby land, and dams now help store water for crops. In a dry country, villages and cities grew along this narrow green corridor. Farther from the river, rainfall is scarce and water is harder to find, so few people settle in those desert areas.
- ② The Nile Delta, where the river divides before reaching the Mediterranean Sea, has broad, flat farmland and several large cities. Fertile soil and reliable irrigation support many farms, which can feed a dense population. The delta also has ports on the sea and river channels that move goods and people. These transportation links give businesses access to markets. As a result, the delta has more crowded settlements than much of Egypt's western desert, where travel and water are limited.
- ③ Some people live in desert oases, where underground water reaches the surface and supports small farms. Others work at Red Sea resorts or in mining areas, creating small clusters of residents away from the Nile. However, these places do not have enough water, fertile land, or transportation routes to support huge populations. Egypt's population pattern is therefore uneven: many people are concentrated near the river and delta, while smaller groups live where another useful resource makes settlement possible there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did many villages and cities grow along the Nile River? Name two geographic factors.

2 Explain why the Nile Delta has a dense population.

3 Compare the western desert with a desert oasis. Why is population sparse in both places, but people can live at an oasis?

4 How can Red Sea resorts and mining areas create small population clusters, even though they are away from the Nile?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a region with a lake, a fertile plain, a mountain pass, and a rocky plateau. Write four sentences that describe where most people live and explain how at least two geographic factors create that population pattern.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each geographic factor that affects settlement, and number each statement that tells where people live in large or small groups. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many villages and cities grow along the Nile River? Name two geographic factors.	The Nile provides fresh water and nearby fertile soil for farming. Dams also store water for crops.
2	Explain why the Nile Delta has a dense population.	The delta has fertile, flat farmland and reliable irrigation. Its ports and river channels also make transportation and trade easier.
3	Compare the western desert with a desert oasis. Why is population sparse in both places, but people can live at an oasis?	The western desert has scarce water and difficult travel. An oasis has underground water at the surface, so it can support small farms and settlements.
4	How can Red Sea resorts and mining areas create small population clusters, even though they are away from the Nile?	Resorts and mines provide jobs, so workers live nearby. These places stay small because they lack enough water, fertile land, or transportation routes for huge populations.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the region of Luma, most people live beside Lake Sora and on the fertile plain south of it. The lake provides fresh water, and the plain has deep soil for farms. A town also grew at a mountain pass because roads and trade routes meet there. The rocky northern plateau has little water and thin soil, so only small settlements are found there.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect a population pattern to specific geographic factors from the passage. For the open task, look for a clear settlement pattern and accurate cause-and-effect links between population and at least two geographic factors.