

Living With Land

Analyze how communities adjust to physical environments.

6.5.B “identify and analyze ways people have adapted to the physical environment in various places and regions; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each adaptation people made to live with land or water conditions. Number the sentence that explains how each adaptation helps people.

People Adapt in Different Places

- ① In the dry highlands of Peru, many farmers grow crops on steep mountain slopes. Long ago, communities built terraces, which are wide, flat steps cut into the hillside. Stone walls hold soil in place and slow rainwater as it moves downhill. Farmers can plant potatoes and corn on the level ground instead of on a sharp slope. The terraces also reduce erosion, the loss of soil carried away by water. People maintain walls and channels because heavy rain can damage them.
- ② On the floodplains of Bangladesh, seasonal monsoon rains can cover land with water. In some villages, families raise homes on tall earthen mounds or concrete posts. This keeps living spaces above many floodwaters. People also build raised paths, so they can reach schools, markets, and neighbors when nearby fields are wet. These changes do not stop every flood. Instead, they lower danger and help daily life continue. Building and repairing raised structures requires money, materials, and community work.
- ③ Along parts of the Netherlands, much land lies near or below sea level. Residents have built dikes, strong barriers that hold back seawater and river water. Pumps move extra water from low areas into canals, and locks control water moving through canals. These systems allow people to live and farm in places that might otherwise flood. However, workers must inspect and improve them regularly. Rising sea levels and stronger storms can increase the pressure on dikes and pumps, so adaptation is an ongoing job.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two adaptations farmers use in the highlands of Peru. How does each one help farmers use steep slopes?

2 How do raised homes and raised paths help people in floodplain villages in Bangladesh during monsoon rains?

3 Compare Peru and the Netherlands. What physical challenge does each place face, and what adaptation helps people respond to it?

4 Why is adapting to water conditions in the Netherlands an ongoing job?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a community on a windy coast. Write three sentences that describe one adaptation the community could use, explain how it helps with the environment, and name one cost or challenge of using it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each adaptation people made to live with land or water conditions. Number the sentence that explains how each adaptation helps people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two adaptations farmers use in the highlands of Peru. How does each one help farmers use steep slopes?	Farmers build flat terraces so they can plant on level ground. Stone walls hold soil in place and slow rainwater, which reduces erosion.
2	How do raised homes and raised paths help people in floodplain villages in Bangladesh during monsoon rains?	Raised homes keep living spaces above many floodwaters. Raised paths help people reach schools, markets, and neighbors when fields are wet.
3	Compare Peru and the Netherlands. What physical challenge does each place face, and what adaptation helps people respond to it?	Peru has steep slopes, so farmers use terraces and stone walls. The Netherlands faces flooding near or below sea level, so residents use dikes, pumps, canals, and locks.
4	Why is adapting to water conditions in the Netherlands an ongoing job?	Workers must inspect and improve the systems regularly. Rising sea levels and stronger storms can put more pressure on dikes and pumps.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A community on a windy coast builds homes with strong roof straps and shutters. These features help keep roofs and windows secure during powerful storms. The community must pay for materials and repair the features after salt air causes wear.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the adaptations and effects stated in the passage. For Part 3, accept any realistic coastal adaptation that identifies a wind-related challenge, explains a benefit, and includes a reasonable cost or limitation.