

Living With Mountains

Trace how people respond to and reshape a mountain environment.

6.5 "Geography. The student understands the impact of interactions between people and the physical environment on the development and conditions of places and regions..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline physical processes or climate conditions, circle ways people adapted, and write 1 beside each way people modified the Andes so you can trace how people and the environment affect each other.

People and the Andes

- ① In the Andes Mountains of Peru, many communities live on steep slopes where the ground can shake. Peru lies near the boundary of two tectonic plates, so earthquakes are a continuing risk. Heavy rains can also loosen soil and cause landslides. These physical processes can damage homes, block roads, and cut off supplies. Higher elevations have cool temperatures and a short growing season. In dry months, farmers may have little water for crops, even when snow remains on distant peaks.
- ② People have adapted by building stone houses with thick walls and roofs designed to shed rain. In some towns, families practice earthquake drills and keep emergency supplies ready. Farmers use terraces, which are level steps cut into hillsides. Terrace walls help hold soil in place, while the flat surfaces make planting possible on steep land. Communities also use canals to guide mountain water to fields during dry months. These choices help people live with the mountains rather than leaving the region.
- ③ People have also modified the Andes. Mining companies remove copper and other minerals from mountain rock, creating jobs and materials for other places. However, mining can leave waste that pollutes water if it is not managed carefully. Governments and communities have built roads and rail lines through valleys and passes. These routes connect farmers to markets, but construction can cut slopes and increase erosion. Irrigation canals improve harvests, yet taking too much water can reduce the flow available to downstream communities and river habitats.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Choose one physical process from the passage. How can it affect people in the Andes?

2 How do terraces and canals help farmers adapt to the mountain environment?

3 What is one benefit and one risk of building roads and rail lines in the Andes?

4 Why is mining a modification of the physical environment, and what problem can it cause?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a real or imagined place with a physical challenge, such as storms, drought, steep land, or earthquakes. Write 4 sentences that explain the challenge and its impact, one adaptation, and one modification with a benefit or possible cost.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline physical processes or climate conditions, circle ways people adapted, and write 1 beside each way people modified the Andes so you can trace how people and the environment affect each other. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Choose one physical process from the passage. How can it affect people in the Andes?	Earthquakes can damage homes, block roads, and cut off supplies. Heavy rains can also cause landslides.
2	How do terraces and canals help farmers adapt to the mountain environment?	Terraces hold soil and create flat places for planting on steep land. Canals guide water to fields during dry months.
3	What is one benefit and one risk of building roads and rail lines in the Andes?	Roads and rail lines connect farmers to markets, but construction can cut slopes and increase erosion.
4	Why is mining a modification of the physical environment, and what problem can it cause?	Mining changes mountain rock by removing minerals. Mine waste can pollute water if it is not managed carefully.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On the coast of the Netherlands, North Sea storms and high water can flood low land. Flooding can damage homes and farmland. People adapt by using flood warnings and moving to safe places during severe storms. They have modified the coast with dikes and pumps, which protect towns but must be maintained carefully.

Accept equivalent passage-based wording for the short answers. For the open response, accept any accurate place and example that clearly includes a physical challenge, an impact, an adaptation, and a modification with a benefit or possible cost.