

Texas Changes Land

Track how people respond to Texas environments and the results of their choices.

7.9.A "identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and explain the positive and negative consequences of the modifications; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each way Texans adapt to local conditions, circle each physical change to the environment, and write a + or - beside each stated consequence of a circled change.

Living With Texas Landscapes

- ① Texas has dry plains, flood-prone rivers, a long coast, and growing cities. People adapt when they change their habits or buildings to live with these conditions. In parts of West Texas, ranchers use windmills or pumps to bring groundwater to tanks for livestock. Some families collect rainwater in storage tanks. These choices help people use water where rainfall is limited. Pumping too much groundwater, however, can lower water levels in nearby wells and springs over time.
- ② After the deadly 1900 hurricane, Galveston built a seawall and raised much of the island's ground level. The wall and higher land help reduce damage from storm waves and flooding. Yet a seawall can reflect wave energy and contribute to beach erosion in front of it. It also changes the natural shoreline. Texans chose this modification to protect homes, businesses, and roads from future storms, but by itself it cannot completely stop every coastal hazard.
- ③ As Texas cities have grown, developers have covered more ground with streets, parking lots, and rooftops. These hard surfaces keep much rain from soaking into soil. Water then runs quickly into streams, carrying litter and oil and raising flood risk. Cities build detention ponds to hold some stormwater and release it more slowly. Ponds can reduce flooding and protect water quality, but paving removes habitat and can still worsen floods in neighborhoods during heavy storms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What water challenge do ranchers and some families face in West Texas, and what two actions do they use to deal with it?

2 How did Galveston's seawall and raised ground help people? What was one negative consequence of the seawall?

3 Explain how paving changes what happens to rainwater. Include one result for streams or floods.

4 What is one benefit of detention ponds, and what environmental cost can remain even when cities build them?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a Texas setting not named in the passage. In exactly three sentences, describe an adaptation or environmental modification there, then explain one positive and one negative consequence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each way Texans adapt to local conditions, circle each physical change to the environment, and write a + or - beside each stated consequence of a circled change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What water challenge do ranchers and some families face in West Texas, and what two actions do they use to deal with it?	Rainfall is limited. Ranchers pump groundwater with windmills or pumps, and some families collect rainwater in storage tanks.
2	How did Galveston's seawall and raised ground help people? What was one negative consequence of the seawall?	They helped reduce damage from storm waves and flooding. The seawall can contribute to beach erosion and changes the natural shoreline.
3	Explain how paving changes what happens to rainwater. Include one result for streams or floods.	Paving keeps rain from soaking into soil, so water runs quickly into streams. The runoff can carry litter and oil and raise flood risk.
4	What is one benefit of detention ponds, and what environmental cost can remain even when cities build them?	Detention ponds can reduce flooding and protect water quality by releasing stormwater slowly. Paving can still remove habitat and worsen floods during heavy storms.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a South Texas farm, growers install drip-irrigation pipes to deliver water near plant roots. This modification helps crops grow while using less water than some other irrigation methods. It can still reduce groundwater supplies if farmers pump more water than the aquifer can replace.

Accept equivalent passage-based wording for the short answers. For the open response, accept a plausible Texas example that clearly identifies a change or adaptation and explains one accurate positive and one accurate negative consequence.