

Land and Water Paths

Read how water and mountains shaped ancient societies.

3.3 "The student will apply history and social science skills to describe major geographic features of ancient societies on a world map by identifying and locating major bodies of water; identifying and locating major mountain ranges..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each named body of water and circle each named mountain range. Then number the last sentence of each paragraph 1, 2, and 3, because each one tells how a geographic feature changed lives or helped cause a historical event.

Geography Shapes Ancient Societies

- ① Ancient Egypt grew in northeast Africa beside the Nile River. On a world map, find Africa, then trace the Nile north to the Mediterranean Sea. Each year, the river flooded, leaving rich soil for crops. Farmers planted wheat and barley in this soil each season. Boats carried people and goods between towns, so travel was easier.
- ② Far to the east, ancient India lay on the Indian subcontinent. The Indian Ocean is south of India, and the Himalayas rise along its northern edge. These high mountains made travel from Central Asia harder, although people could use a few mountain passes. Rivers flowing from the Himalayas helped farmers grow crops on wide plains during the rainy season.
- ③ Ancient Greece was in southeastern Europe beside the Mediterranean Sea, a large sea. The sea lies between Europe, Africa, and Asia, joining three continents. The Alps are far north of Greece in Europe. Steep, rocky mountains separated many Greek communities. City-states used the sea for trade, and some Greeks sailed away to begin colonies around the Mediterranean.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

- 1 On which continent was ancient Egypt, and what sea did the Nile River reach?
- 2 What ocean is south of India, and what mountain range is along India’s northern edge?
- 3 How did the Nile River help people in ancient Egypt? Give one way from the passage.
- 4 How did the Mediterranean Sea connect geography to a historical event in ancient Greece?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use a classroom or atlas world map. Choose one major body of water and one major mountain range not named in the passage. For each feature, write its map location and one way it affected people or connected to a historical event.

FEATURE	TYPE	MAP LOCATION	EFFECT OR HISTORICAL CONNECTION

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each named body of water and circle each named mountain range. Then number the last sentence of each paragraph 1, 2, and 3, because each one tells how a geographic feature changed lives or helped cause a historical event. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	On which continent was ancient Egypt, and what sea did the Nile River reach?	Egypt was in Africa, and the Nile River reached the Mediterranean Sea.
2	What ocean is south of India, and what mountain range is along India's northern edge?	The Indian Ocean is south of India, and the Himalayas are along its northern edge.
3	How did the Nile River help people in ancient Egypt? Give one way from the passage.	It flooded and left rich soil for crops, or boats made travel between towns easier.
4	How did the Mediterranean Sea connect geography to a historical event in ancient Greece?	Greek city-states used the sea for trade, and some Greeks sailed to begin colonies around the Mediterranean.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

FEATURE	TYPE	MAP LOCATION	EFFECT OR HISTORICAL CONNECTION
Pacific Ocean	body of water	between Asia and the Americas	Polynesian sailors crossed parts of it to settle islands.
Andes	mountain range	western South America	The Andes led the Inca to build roads and bridges for travel.

Accept accurate map locations and reasonable, historically accurate connections between each feature and people's lives or events. The two student choices must include one body of water and one mountain range not named in the passage.