

Land Shapes Trade

See how ancient China's land affected jobs, travel, and trade.

3.5.b "connecting the geography of ancient China and its economy;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the geographic-feature words or phrases that name rivers, mountains, a desert, and the coast. Circle one economic activity connected to each feature, then label the four feature-and-activity pairs 1, 2, 3, and 4 in this order: rivers, mountains, desert, coast.

China's Land and Work

- ① Ancient China grew along the Huang He, also called the Yellow River, and the Chang Jiang, or Yangtze River. Each river flooded nearby land and left rich soil. Farmers used this soil to grow millet in the north and rice in the south. Extra grain could be traded in towns. Rivers also carried people and goods by boat, helping markets connect.
- ② High mountains stood west of many Chinese settlements. They made travel hard, so people used a few mountain passes. Traders led camels through these passes with silk, tea, and other goods. Farther west, the dry Taklamakan Desert had little water. Travelers planned stops at oases, places with water, before they crossed desert routes to trade.
- ③ China's eastern coast met the Pacific Ocean. Fishing families caught fish and gathered shellfish for food and trade. Other workers made salt by letting seawater dry in shallow pools. Ships sailed along the coast carrying salt, fish, pottery, and silk between ports. In this way, rivers, mountains, deserts, and the coast shaped where people farmed, traveled, and traded.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did rivers help farmers and traders in ancient China?

2 How did mountains affect travel and trade?

3 Why did travelers stop at oases on desert trade routes?

4 Name two ways the coast helped China's economy.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one geographic feature from the reading. Write exactly three sentences about a new settlement near that feature, including what people could make, grow, catch, or trade and how the feature would help them.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the geographic-feature words or phrases that name rivers, mountains, a desert, and the coast. Circle one economic activity connected to each feature, then label the four feature-and-activity pairs 1, 2, 3, and 4 in this order: rivers, mountains, desert, coast. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did rivers help farmers and traders in ancient China?	Floods left rich soil for crops, and rivers carried people and goods by boat.
2	How did mountains affect travel and trade?	Mountains made travel hard, so traders used mountain passes.
3	Why did travelers stop at oases on desert trade routes?	The Taklamakan Desert had little water, and oases provided water.
4	Name two ways the coast helped China's economy.	The coast supported fishing and salt making. Ships also carried goods between ports.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A new village beside a river could grow millet in rich soil. Its people could load extra grain onto boats and trade it in towns. The river would help the village farm and move goods.

Accept any accurate three-sentence settlement description that connects one feature from the passage to a reasonable economic activity. The response must explain how the feature helps people produce or trade goods.