

Reading Growth Patterns

Use location clues to explain and predict where a city may grow.

S.CE.b “applying geographic skills to determine and predict patterns and trends of people, places, or events;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three sentences that explain how a landform or transportation route can influence where people choose homes. These sentences provide geographic evidence for a growth pattern.

Where Will Riverton Grow?

- ① Riverton is a fictional growing city beside the Clear River. Its older downtown stands on a flat river terrace, while hills rise west of the city. During the past five years, most new homes have been built east and southeast of downtown. Those areas have gentle land and several open fields. A state highway runs from downtown toward the southeast. Planners use these location clues to study where people are choosing to live across Riverton today.
- ② City records show that building permits have increased fastest in the east and southeast. Flat land there makes road building and home construction easier. The highway gives southeastern residents a faster route to jobs and stores downtown. By contrast, steep western hills require more costly road cuts before houses can be built. Near downtown, the river terrace contains many older blocks. Together, these patterns help planners explain the city’s uneven growth from place to place today.
- ③ If present conditions continue, planners expect most new housing to spread farther southeast along the highway, where fields are still available. They do not expect the western hills to gain homes as quickly, unless builders pay for expensive road work. Growth near downtown may focus on replacing older buildings rather than using large empty lots. These are predictions, not guarantees. A new transit line, flood, zoning rule, or major employer could change where people settle.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

What spatial pattern do the new homes and building permits show in Riverton?

2

Which two geographic clues best explain why growth has been fastest east and southeast of downtown?

3

Where do planners predict most new housing will spread next? Give two pieces of evidence for this prediction.

4

Why should planners treat the southeast growth prediction as conditional rather than certain? Name two possible changes from the passage.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a three-area growth forecast for an invented town. For each area, give one geographic clue and predict whether housing will grow quickly, grow slowly, or change in another way.

TOWN AREA	GEOGRAPHIC CLUE	HOUSING FORECAST

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three sentences that explain how a landform or transportation route can influence where people choose homes. These sentences provide geographic evidence for a growth pattern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What spatial pattern do the new homes and building permits show in Riverton?	New homes and building permits are concentrated east and southeast of downtown.
2	Which two geographic clues best explain why growth has been fastest east and southeast of downtown?	The land is flat, which makes construction easier, and the highway gives southeastern residents faster access to jobs and stores downtown.
3	Where do planners predict most new housing will spread next? Give two pieces of evidence for this prediction.	Farther southeast along the highway. Fields are still available there, and the highway provides a fast route to downtown jobs and stores.
4	Why should planners treat the southeast growth prediction as conditional rather than certain? Name two possible changes from the passage.	Changes such as a new transit line and a flood could change where people settle. A zoning rule or major employer would also be acceptable.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

TOWN AREA	GEOGRAPHIC CLUE	HOUSING FORECAST
North edge	Flat vacant land near a highway exit	Housing will likely grow quickly because construction and travel are easier.
Riverfront center	Many older buildings and few empty lots	Growth may focus on replacing or renovating buildings.
West ridge	Steep slopes with narrow roads	Housing will likely grow slowly because building roads costs more.

Accept forecasts that logically connect each location clue to a housing trend. Students may make different predictions if their stated geographic evidence supports them.