

# Clues From the Land

Use evidence and geography to explain early life in North America.

**USI.2** “The student will apply history and social science skills to describe how early cultures developed throughout North America by describing how archaeologists have recovered artifacts from ancient settlements including...”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle each phrase that links a geographic region or resource to something people did or used, and underline each clue archaeologists use to learn about the past. Your marks will show how evidence and geography help explain daily life.

### Evidence of Early Communities

- ① Archaeologists study the past by carefully digging ancient settlement sites. They record the location and depth of each object, called an artifact, before removing it. At Cactus Hill, a site in Virginia beside the Nottoway River, archaeologists found stone tools and points in layers of soil. The layers help researchers learn that people used the place at different times long ago.
- ② Before Europeans arrived, Indigenous peoples lived in every major region of North America. Geography shaped the ways communities met daily needs. In the Arctic, sea ice and cold water led people to hunt marine animals and wear warm animal-skin clothing. In the Northeast, forests supplied wood for homes, canoes, and tools. Near the Pacific Northwest coast, rich waters supported fishing, and cedar trees provided wood and bark.
- ③ Other regions shaped life in other ways. On the Great Plains, wide grasslands supported bison hunting, so many communities moved as herds moved and used bison hides for shelter. In the Southwest, dry land encouraged farming near rivers, where people grew crops such as corn, beans, and squash. Archaeologists connect artifacts, soil layers, and the land around a settlement to build evidence-based ideas about daily life.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What two details do archaeologists record before they remove an artifact?

**2** How do the soil layers at Cactus Hill help archaeologists learn about the site?

**3** How did the Arctic environment influence daily life for Indigenous peoples?

**4** Name two Pacific Northwest resources from the passage and tell how people used them.

**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences comparing how the Arctic and the Southwest influenced daily life. In your third sentence, name one artifact an archaeologist might find at a Southwest settlement and explain what it could show.

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Circle each phrase that links a geographic region or resource to something people did or used, and underline each clue archaeologists use to learn about the past. Your marks will show how evidence and geography help explain daily life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                             | ANSWER                                                                                              |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What two details do archaeologists record before they remove an artifact?            | <b>They record the artifact's location and depth.</b>                                               |
| 2 | How do the soil layers at Cactus Hill help archaeologists learn about the site?      | <b>The layers show that people used the place at different times long ago.</b>                      |
| 3 | How did the Arctic environment influence daily life for Indigenous peoples?          | <b>Sea ice and cold water led people to hunt marine animals and wear warm animal-skin clothing.</b> |
| 4 | Name two Pacific Northwest resources from the passage and tell how people used them. | <b>Rich waters supported fishing. Cedar trees provided wood and bark.</b>                           |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

The Arctic's sea ice and cold water led people to hunt marine animals and wear warm animal-skin clothing. The Southwest's dry land led people to farm near rivers. A digging tool at a Southwest settlement could show that people worked the soil to grow crops.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations that match the passage. For the open response, accept a plausible Southwest artifact and a reasonable explanation of what it could reveal, as long as the response has exactly three sentences.