

Cities in Place

Analyze how site and situation shape major cities.

WG.15.a "applying the concepts of site and situation to major cities in each region; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that describe a city's site, and circle details that describe its situation. Put a 1 beside each sentence that explains how one of those features affected a city.

Why These Cities Grew

- ① A city's site is the physical place where it stands. It includes landforms, water, climate, and local resources. Its situation is its location compared with other places, such as trade routes, nearby cities, or political borders. These ideas explain why cities grow and what challenges they face. A harbor is part of a site, while a position along a busy sea route describes situation. To analyze a city, first separate its local setting from its connections beyond the city.
- ② Cairo is a major city in Africa that shows how site and situation work together. Its site lies on the Nile River's banks near fertile floodplain land, although much of the surrounding region is desert. River water and productive soils supported farming and settlement. Cairo's situation links northern Africa with Southwest Asia and Europe through routes across the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, and the Sinai Peninsula. Its position near these regions helped make it a center of government, culture, and trade. The desert also limits nearby farmland and water supplies.
- ③ Singapore offers a different example in Southeast Asia. Its site is a small, low-lying island with a deep natural harbor and a hot, wet tropical climate. The island has limited land and few natural resources, so space and freshwater are carefully managed. Singapore's situation is at the southern end of the Malay Peninsula, beside the Strait of Malacca. Ships traveling between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea pass nearby. This strategic position helped Singapore become one of the world's busiest ports and a major center for finance and trade.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two features of Cairo's site.

2 Which details in paragraph 2 describe Cairo's situation rather than its site?

3 Name one site-related challenge for Cairo and one site-related challenge for Singapore.

4 How did Singapore's situation help it become an important port and trade center?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Use an atlas or a reliable class resource to choose a major city outside Africa and Southeast Asia. Write exactly three sentences that name its region, describe one site feature, describe one situation feature, and explain how one feature affects the city.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that describe a city's site, and circle details that describe its situation. Put a 1 beside each sentence that explains how one of those features affected a city. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two features of Cairo's site.	The Nile River and fertile floodplain land. The surrounding desert is also a site feature.
2	Which details in paragraph 2 describe Cairo's situation rather than its site?	Cairo links northern Africa with Southwest Asia and Europe through routes across the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, and Sinai Peninsula.
3	Name one site-related challenge for Cairo and one site-related challenge for Singapore.	Cairo's surrounding desert limits nearby farmland and water supplies. Singapore has limited land and few natural resources, so it must manage space and freshwater carefully.
4	How did Singapore's situation help it become an important port and trade center?	Singapore is beside the Strait of Malacca, where ships traveling between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea pass nearby. This position supports shipping, trade, and finance.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Vancouver, Canada, is in North America. Its site on Burrard Inlet near mountains and the Pacific coast provides a protected harbor. Its situation on Canada's Pacific coast connects it with trade routes to Asia, helping its port serve international trade.

Accept accurate site details about a city's physical setting and situation details about its relative location or connections. In the open response, accept any major city outside the two passage regions if the student clearly distinguishes site from situation and gives a reasonable effect.