

Resources Shape Places

Trace how natural resources affect work and land use.

WG.2.b "showing the influence of resources on patterns of economic activity and land use; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each natural resource. Circle each economic activity or land use it influences, then draw a pencil arrow from the resource to one linked use.

Resources at Work

- ① Near the Patuxent River in Maryland, a gravel company operates where ancient sediments lie close to the surface. The company leases land, removes sand and gravel, and ships the materials to nearby construction sites. This resource encourages industrial land use, including pits, processing areas, truck routes, and storage yards. Farmers may sell or lease some fields because extracting gravel can bring income. After mining ends, a pit may be filled with water and reused for recreation or wildlife habitat.
- ② In the same region, fertile soil and a mild growing season support farms. Growers use flat, well-drained land for corn, soybeans, vegetables, and plant nurseries. Because fresh produce can spoil, farms near highways and cities can reach markets quickly. Land around packing sheds may be used for cooling rooms, loading areas, and employee parking. When housing spreads onto productive farmland, growers have less land to plant, and local food production may decline noticeably over time.
- ③ Farther west, a mountain valley has fast-moving streams and steep slopes. A utility built a hydroelectric dam where the water could turn turbines. The reservoir behind the dam stores water and changes nearby land use. Some shore land became parks, boat launches, and vacation homes, while flooded bottomland could no longer be farmed. The dam also provides electricity for homes and businesses. Its location shows how water resources can create new economic activity while limiting other uses of land.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the gravel resource change the way land is used near the Patuxent River?

2 Why are farms near highways and cities useful for growers of fresh produce?

3 Describe one benefit and one tradeoff caused by the hydroelectric dam and reservoir.

4 Compare gravel and fertile soil. What economic activity does each resource support, and what land use results?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a natural resource not named in the passage. Write three sentences explaining how it could support two economic activities and cause two types of land use.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each natural resource. Circle each economic activity or land use it influences, then draw a pencil arrow from the resource to one linked use. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the gravel resource change the way land is used near the Patuxent River?	It leads to industrial uses such as gravel pits, processing areas, truck routes, and storage yards.
2	Why are farms near highways and cities useful for growers of fresh produce?	Fresh produce can spoil, so nearby highways and cities help growers get it to markets quickly.
3	Describe one benefit and one tradeoff caused by the hydroelectric dam and reservoir.	Benefits include electricity, parks, boat launches, or vacation homes. A tradeoff is that flooded bottomland can no longer be farmed.
4	Compare gravel and fertile soil. What economic activity does each resource support, and what land use results?	Gravel supports mining and construction-material shipping, creating pits and processing areas. Fertile soil supports farming, creating cropland, nurseries, and areas around packing sheds.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A forest with mature pine trees can support a lumber mill and a furniture workshop. Land near the forest may be used for managed timber stands and a mill yard where logs are stored. The trees attract these businesses because they provide wood that can be harvested and transported.

Accept any accurate natural resource not named in the passage and a logical explanation of its influence. The response must name two economic activities, two land uses, and a clear connection between the resource and those choices.