

Changing Meadow

Trace how natural events change living things and their homes.

3.8.c “fire, flood, disease, and erosion affect ecosystems; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each event that affects Pine Creek Meadow, then circle one effect of each event to show how ecosystems can change.

Pine Creek Meadow

- ① An ecosystem includes living things and the land, water, and air they need. In Pine Creek Meadow, grasses fed rabbits, and rabbits were food for hawks. One dry summer, lightning started a fire. The fire burned much of the grass and some small shrubs. Rabbits had less food and cover, so many moved to nearby fields.
- ② Later, heavy rain caused Pine Creek to flood. Fast water covered part of the meadow and washed away loose soil. Some rabbit burrows filled with water. Fish found more space in the creek for a short time, but muddy water made it harder for them to find food. When the water went down, new plants began to grow.
- ③ A disease later spread among the rabbits. Sick rabbits ate less and some died, so hawks had fewer rabbits to catch. On a bare hillside beside the meadow, wind and rain slowly carried soil downhill. This erosion left less soil for plant roots. With fewer plants, animals had less food and fewer places to hide.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did the fire do to the rabbits' food and cover?

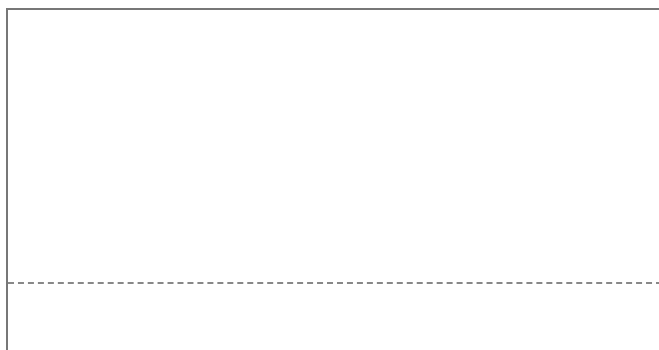
2 How did the flood affect the soil and the fish?

3 How did disease among the rabbits affect the hawks?

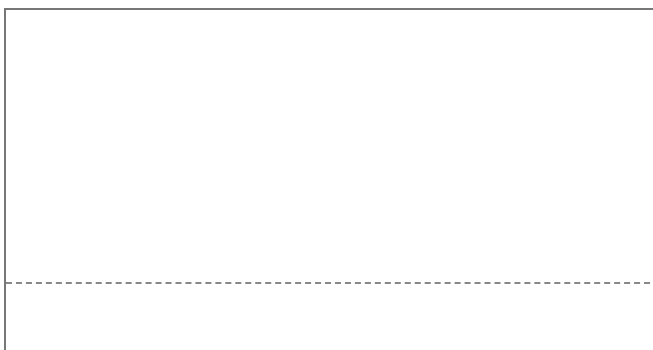
4 How can erosion on the hillside affect animals in the meadow?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a pond, forest, desert, or field. Draw the ecosystem before and after one event, fire, flood, disease, or erosion. Write two sentences that explain how the event changes living things or their homes.



A rectangular box for drawing the ecosystem before an event. It has a dashed horizontal line near the bottom, indicating a space for a drawing and a space for writing.



A rectangular box for drawing the ecosystem after an event. It has a dashed horizontal line near the bottom, indicating a space for a drawing and a space for writing.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each event that affects Pine Creek Meadow, then circle one effect of each event to show how ecosystems can change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the fire do to the rabbits' food and cover?	The fire burned grass and shrubs, so rabbits had less food and cover.
2	How did the flood affect the soil and the fish?	The flood washed away loose soil. It gave fish more space for a short time, but muddy water made finding food harder.
3	How did disease among the rabbits affect the hawks?	Some rabbits died, so hawks had fewer rabbits to catch.
4	How can erosion on the hillside affect animals in the meadow?	Erosion leaves less soil for plant roots. Fewer plants mean animals have less food and fewer places to hide.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Panel 1 shows a forest with trees, squirrels, and nests before a fire. Panel 2 shows fewer trees and squirrels moving away because they have less shelter and food.

Accept answers that accurately connect one of the four events to a change in living things, food, shelter, water, or soil. Student drawings and sentences may use different ecosystems and valid cause-and-effect details.