

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: People and Planets: 3rd Grade Pros Pivot and Protect

Evaluate how terraced farms in Peru and stilt houses in Vietnam solve environmental challenges through clever modification and adaptation strategies.

1. In the steep Andes Mountains of Peru, farmers carve giant 'steps' called terraces into the hillsides. Why is this modification considered a high-level solution for survival?

Answer: B) It stops soil from washing away and creates flat land for crops.

Terracing is a complex modification that prevents erosion and turns unusable slopes into productive farmland.

2. Building a bridge over a river to connect two cities is an example of humans adapting to the environment.

Answer: B) False

Building a bridge is a 'modification' because humans are changing the landscape to fit their needs, rather than just changing their own behavior.

3. In the Mekong Delta of Vietnam, people build their homes on tall wooden poles called stilts. This is an example of _____ because they changed their housing to survive seasonal floods.

Answer: C) Adaptation

Adaptation occurs when humans change their own habits or designs—like house height—to live safely within natural conditions like flooding.

4. Which of these scenarios shows a human DEPENDENCE on the environment that could be risky if the environment changes?

Answer: B) A community relying entirely on a local river for its only drinking water.

Dependence refers to when humans rely on a specific natural resource. If that river dries up or becomes polluted, the community is at risk.

5. When people in California use 'desalination' plants to turn salty ocean water into fresh drinking water, they are _____ the environment to meet their needs.

Answer: A) Modifying

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Desalination is a technological modification where humans actively change a natural resource (salt water) to make it useful for them.

6. Planting a 'Green Roof' (a roof covered in living plants) in a big city is a modification that has a positive consequence.

Answer: A) True

Green roofs are human modifications that help cool down buildings and provide oxygen, showing that human-environment interaction can be beneficial.

7. Imagine a town builds a large dam to create electricity. Which of these is a likely UNINTENDED consequence for the people living downstream?

Answer: B) The river water might slow down or dry up, affecting their farms.

Human modifications often have 'consequences.' Blocking water with a dam helps one area get power but can hurt the water supply for those further down.

8. In the Great Plains of the USA, farmers in the 1930s removed too many native grasses. When a drought hit, the soil blew away. This event was called the _____.

Answer: C) Dust Bowl

The Dust Bowl is a classic historical example of a negative consequence resulting from human modification of the land.

9. If you move to a very sun-soaked desert like Arizona and decide to sleep during the hot day and do your work in the cool evening, what are you doing?

Answer: C) You are adapting your behavior to the environment.

Changing your schedule to match the natural temperature of an area is an example of human adaptation.

10. A negative consequence of human-environment interaction is always someone's fault and can never be fixed.

Answer: B) False

While some consequences are negative, humans can use new modifications (like replanting trees) to help fix previous mistakes.