

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: People and the Planet: A 5th Grade Geography Quest

Critical analysis of how civilizations reshape landscapes and adapt to nature, moving beyond simple facts to evaluate human environmental impact.

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**1. In the arid mountains of Peru, the Inca civilization built 'andenes' (stone terraces). This is a primary example of which interaction?**

**Answer:** B) Landscape Modification

Building terraces physically changes the shape of the land to make it suitable for farming, which is a modification.

**2. The use of 'stilt houses' in flood-prone regions of Vietnam is an example of humans adapting to their environment.**

**Answer:** A) True

True. Instead of changing the river, people adapt their architecture to survive and thrive during seasonal flooding.

**3. When a city builds a massive underground reservoir to store rainwater and prevent flooding, we call this interaction \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** B) Modification

Constructing infrastructure like reservoirs is a deliberate modification of the environment to manage natural water cycles.

**4. The ancient Egyptians relied on the predictable flooding of the Nile River for nutrient-rich soil. This best demonstrates:**

**Answer:** C) Human dependence on the environment

The civilization depended on the river's natural cycle for their food supply and overall survival.

**5. In New York City, the High Line park was created by turning an old elevated railway into a green space. This is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** C) Land Modification

Changing a man-made structure back into a natural habitat is a form of modifying the urban environment.

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**6. Building a bridge across a wide canyon to connect two cities is an example of humans adapting to the environment without changing it.**

**Answer:** B) False

False. Adding a structure like a bridge is a modification of the physical landscape to overcome a natural barrier.

**7. Which of the following is an unintended 'consequence' of human interaction with the environment?**

**Answer:** C) Soil erosion caused by over-farming

Soil erosion is often a negative, unintended result of how humans choose to use and modify the land for agriculture.

**8. Wind turbines in the North Sea provide electricity for thousands of homes. This shows how humans \_\_\_\_\_ on natural resources.**

**Answer:** D) Depend

Using wind to create energy shows our dependence on renewable natural resources to power our modern lives.

**9. The 'Dust Bowl' in the 1930s U.S. Great Plains was a consequence of both weather patterns and human modification of the soil.**

**Answer:** A) True

True. It was a complex interaction where poor farming techniques (modification) met a drought, leading to a major disaster (consequence).

**10. Which scenario best illustrates an 'adaptation' to a cold, snowy climate?**

**Answer:** B) Designing houses with steeply pitched roofs so snow slides off

Architectural design that works with the weather (letting snow slide off) is a classic example of adapting to environmental conditions.