Name: _____ Date: _____

One River, Six Towns, One Shared Plan

Circle group

Rain on a hillside does not care where a town ends. It flows downhill into a stream. Then it flows into a river. At last it goes toward a lake or an ocean. All the land that drains into one river is its watershed. A watershed often crosses many towns.

This makes a puzzle for local governments. Picture six towns along a river. The town at the top allows a parking lot. The rain has no place to soak in. Water rushes off the pavement. It carries oil and dirt into the river. The town at the bottom did not make that choice. But it gets muddy water and a flooded park.

One town cannot fix this alone. So neighbors may form a watershed council. Each town sends a representative. They meet to share facts and set common goals. They might make shared rules to plant trees along the stream banks. They might test the water together.

A council like this usually cannot force a town to act. Its power comes from agreements that towns choose to join. Every member also depends on the same river. Cooperation works because upstream and downstream are on one team.

Questions

1. What is a watershed?

_____

_____

2. What can happen when rain rushes off pavement?

_____

_____

3. Who does each town send to a watershed council?

_____

_____

4. What might the council members do together?

_____

_____

5. Why can the town at the bottom not fix the problem alone?

_____

_____

6. Why does cooperation work even if the council cannot force a town?

_____

_____

Words to know

watershed: all the land that drains into one river
pavement: a hard road or parking surface
representative: a person chosen to speak for others
cooperation: working together toward the same goal

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

One River, Six Towns, One Shared Plan

Triangle group

Rain that falls on a hillside does not care where a town boundary runs. It flows downhill into a stream, then into a river, and finally toward a lake or an ocean. All the land that drains into one river is called its watershed, and a watershed often crosses many towns.

That creates a puzzle for local governments. Imagine six towns along a river. The town at the top allows a new parking lot with no place for rain to soak in. Water rushes off the pavement, carrying oil and dirt into the river. The town at the bottom, which never made that choice, is left with muddy water and a flooded park.

Since one town cannot solve the problem alone, neighbors sometimes form a watershed council. Each town sends a representative, and they meet to share information and agree on common goals. Members might decide on shared rules for keeping the stream banks planted with trees, or work together to test the water.

A council like this usually cannot force a town to do anything. Its power comes from agreements that each town chooses to join, and from the fact that every member depends on the same river. Cooperation works because people upstream and downstream are on the same team.

Questions

1. What is a watershed?

_____

_____

2. What can happen when rain rushes off pavement?

_____

_____

3. Who does each town send to a watershed council?

_____

_____

4. What could the members of a watershed council do together?

_____

_____

5. Why can the town at the bottom not solve the problem alone?

_____

_____

6. Why does cooperation work even though the council cannot force a town?

_____

_____

Words to know

watershed: all the land that drains into one river
boundary: a line that shows where one place ends
pavement: a hard road or parking surface
representative: a person chosen to speak for others
cooperation: working together toward the same goal

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

One River, Six Towns, One Shared Plan

Square group

Rain that lands on a hillside pays no attention to where a town boundary happens to run. It flows downhill into a stream, then into a river, and eventually toward a lake or an ocean. All of the land that drains into a single river is known as its watershed, and a watershed frequently stretches across many towns.

This creates a genuine puzzle for local governments. Imagine six towns strung along a river. The town at the top permits a new parking lot that leaves no place for rain to soak into the ground. Water rushes off the pavement, carrying oil and dirt into the river. The town at the bottom, which never made that choice, is left with muddy water and a flooded park.

Because no single town can solve such a problem by itself, neighbors sometimes form a watershed council. Each town sends a representative, and together they exchange information and settle on common goals. Members might agree on shared rules for keeping the stream banks planted with trees, or they might cooperate to test the water.

A council of this kind usually has no power to force a town to do anything. Its strength comes from agreements that each town chooses to join, and from the fact that every member depends on the same river. Cooperation succeeds because the people upstream and downstream are, in the end, on the same team.

Questions

1. What is a watershed?

_____

_____

2. What can happen when rain rushes off a large stretch of pavement?

_____

_____

3. Whom does each town send to a watershed council?

_____

_____

4. What might the members of a watershed council do together?

_____

_____

5. Why is the town at the bottom unable to solve the problem by itself?

_____

_____

6. Why does cooperation succeed even though the council cannot force a town to act?

_____

_____

Words to know

watershed: all the land that drains into one river
boundary: a line that shows where one place ends
pavement: a hard road or parking surface
representative: a person chosen to speak for others
cooperation: working together toward the same goal

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: One River, Six Towns, One Shared Plan

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: One River, Six Towns, One Shared Plan

Easier · 196 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. All the land that drains into one river.
2. It can carry oil and dirt into the river.
3. A representative.
4. Make shared rules about planting trees, or test the water.
5. The trouble starts upstream in a town it does not control.
6. Every member depends on the same river.

Triangle: One River, Six Towns, One Shared Plan

This passage · 211 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.1

1. All the land that drains into one river.
2. It can carry oil and dirt into the river.
3. A representative.
4. Share rules about planting trees along stream banks, or test the water.
5. The trouble starts upstream, in a town it does not control.
6. Every member depends on the same river.

Square: One River, Six Towns, One Shared Plan

Harder · 234 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8

1. All of the land that drains into a single river.
2. It can carry oil and dirt into the river.
3. A representative.
4. Agree on shared rules for planting trees along stream banks, or cooperate to test the water.
5. The trouble begins upstream, in a town it does not control.
6. Every member depends on the same river.