Where Should They Settle?

Africa | Map decision

Name _____ Date _____

A group of farmers wants to start a new town where they can grow food every year and trade with other towns. Study the physical map and the facts about each site, then choose.



Elevation (feet)

0 3,000 6,000 10,000 15,000 20,000+

0 1,000 miles

0 2,000 km

Blue lines = rivers
Dashed lines = latitude and longitude

A Site A

Rain and snow	about 64 in
Elevation	about 1,500 ft
River or lake	Yes: Congo River
Land	Thick rainforest
Average temp.	77 F, hot all year

B Site B

Rain and snow	about 6 in
Elevation	about 1,700 ft
River or lake	No (water from wells)
Land	Sandy desert, rocky hills
Average temp.	85 F, very hot summers

C Site C

Rain and snow	about 56 in
Elevation	about 5,900 ft
River or lake	Yes: Blue Nile (from Lake Tana)
Land	High green plateau
Average temp.	68 F, mild all year

D Site D

Rain and snow	about 20 in
Elevation	about 880 ft
River or lake	Yes: Niger River
Land	Flat, floods each year
Average temp.	85 F, hot, long dry season

1. Which site would you choose? Site _____

2. Explain your choice using two clues from the map (color, rivers, mountains, coast):

Clue 1: _____

Clue 2: _____

3. Pick one site you did NOT choose. What is its biggest problem? Site ___

_____

Elevation: Mapzen terrain tiles | Rivers and borders: Natural Earth | Climate: weather station averages

Where Should They Settle?

Africa | The Five Themes of Geography

Name _____ Date _____

Answer these about the site you chose on page 1. My site: Site _____

LOCATION

Where exactly is your site? Use the latitude and longitude lines on the map.

Follow the curved dashed lines from your site to their labels at the edge of the map.

My site is near _____ ° N or S and _____ ° E or W (circle N or S, and E or W)

PLACE

What is your site like? Describe its land and its weather in your own words.

Use the fact card: rain, elevation, land and temperature.

HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

What will the people have to build or change to live well at your site?

For example: wells, canals, dams, terraces, warm houses, cleared fields, walls against floods.

MOVEMENT

How will people and goods get to and from your site?

Think about rivers, the coast, mountain passes and flat land for roads.

REGION

What kind of region is your site in? Name one other place in the world that is like it.

For example: rainforest, desert, grassland, mountains, cold northern land, coast.

Teacher Key

Africa | Where Should They Settle?

There is no single right answer. A strong answer names a site, gives two clues that really come from the map or the fact cards (water, rain, elevation, land, temperature, coast), and names a real problem with a site it did not choose.

A Kisangani, DR Congo

about 1°N, 25°E

On the Congo River, deep in the rainforest near the Equator. Plenty of water and rain, and boats can travel about 1,000 miles downstream from here. But it is hot and wet all year, the forest is hard to clear, and the rapids of Boyoma Falls just upstream stop boats going farther. Kisangani grew as a river port.

B Agadez, Niger

about 17°N, 8°E

On the southern edge of the Sahara. Almost no rain and no river, so water comes from wells and only a little farming is possible. But for hundreds of years camel caravans crossing the Sahara stopped here to trade salt, cloth and gold.

C Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

about 12°N, 37°E

On Lake Tana in the Ethiopian Highlands, where the Blue Nile flows out of the lake. Heavy summer rain, fresh water, good soil and mild weather because of the height. It is far from the sea and the rain comes in one long season. Farmers have grown crops such as teff in these highlands for thousands of years.

D Mopti, Mali

about 14°N, 4°W

Where the Bani River meets the Niger, in the dry grasslands of the Sahel. Each year the river floods and leaves wet land for rice and fishing, and boats carry goods along the Niger. The rest of the year is hot and dry, and the floods change from year to year.

Five Themes page

Human-environment interaction: clearing forest (A), digging wells and growing in oases (B), terracing or draining fields (C), planting rice in the flood and storing grain (D). Movement: river boats on the Congo (A) or the Niger (D), camel caravans and trucks across the desert (B), roads down from the highlands (C). Region: rainforest (A), desert (B), highland plateau (C), dry grassland or Sahel (D); any real place of the same kind counts for the second part.

Location: students follow the curved dashed lines to their labels; accept answers within a few degrees of the value shown.