

Name:

Date:

Period

Correlates with SS6G2; SS6G6; SS6G8

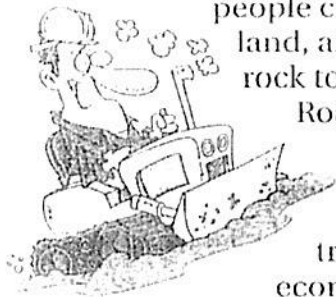
# CHAPTER 3

## PEOPLE & THE ENVIRONMENT

### People Modify the Environment!

Wherever people live, they **modify** (change) the environment to better suit their needs. For example, in places where natural waterways are unavailable, people often construct canals. Canals are man-made waterways that improve transportation and trade from one place to another.

Building roads is another example of how people modify the environment. People build roads to connect towns and cities. To build roads, people cut down trees, clear the land, and even blast through rock to make a smooth path.



Roads are an efficient way to connect people, businesses, products, and services. By improving transportation, roads help economic activities in a country grow.

#### We Do What!?

A few of the ways we modify our physical environments include:

- clearing land for agriculture
- domesticating wild plants and animals
- constructing buildings, offices, and homes
- constructing roads, railroads, and other systems of transportation
- taking natural resources from the environment (mining, logging, fishing, etc.)
- using natural resources to make products
- changing water flow by building dams, dikes, irrigation, and canals

### Cause and Effect

L6-BRH5

People modify their physical environments to improve their own lives. Match each modification of the environment to how it improves human life.

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. building canals              | A. farmers increase the size, quality, and quantity of their crops   |
| _____ 2. fertilizing the soil         | B. people can trade goods across land to places near and far         |
| _____ 3. clear-cutting woodlands      | C. people use the raw materials to produce many goods and services   |
| _____ 4. building roads               | D. people have more land available for farming and raising livestock |
| _____ 5. mining for mineral resources | E. ships can travel more easily from one body of water to the next   |

# Consequences of Human Activity

People modify their environments to improve human life. However, many human activities such as agriculture, manufacturing, and industry negatively impact the environment. People waste natural resources, disrupt plant and animal habitats, and pollute the land, water, and air.

For example, constructing a highway has both positive and negative consequences.

The **positive consequences** of building a highway include:

- ⇒ Highways allow people in rural areas to reach available jobs in big cities.
- ⇒ Highways allow products to be quickly shipped across land, which improves trade.
- ⇒ Highways allow for travel within a country and encourage tourism.

The **negative consequences** of building a highway include:

- ⇒ Clearing land for highways destroys natural plant and animal habitats (forests, swamps, prairies, etc.), causing many plant and animal species to die.
- ⇒ Cars and trucks using highways increase air pollution, which can cause smog, acid rain, and health problems for city residents.

## Quick Review

L6-8RH2

Answer the questions.

1. Why do people build highways? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does building a highway affect plant and animal habitats? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How does building a highway affect air quality? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Inference

L6-8RH8

For each human activity, list at least one intended and one unintended consequence.

Human Activity	Intended Consequence	Unintended Consequence
Logging		
Fishing		
Clearing land for agriculture		
Mining		