



People & Places: Adapt or Modify?

Mission: People everywhere interact with their environment. They ADAPT to it, DEPEND on it, and MODIFY it. Visit four real places, test solutions, and decide whether each successful solution is adapting, depending, or modifying.

Big question: How do people adapt to, depend on, and modify their environments?

★ Warm-up: Adapt, depend, or modify?

Label each.

Wearing a heavy coat in winter ✓ **Adapt.**

Building a dam ✓ **Modify.**

Key vocabulary

Human-environment interaction	How people and their environment affect each other.
Adapt	Change your way of life to fit the environment.
Modify	Change the environment to fit your needs.
Polder	Low land reclaimed from the sea using dikes.

1 Box 1

The Netherlands

In the simulator: Get an excellent harvest in the Netherlands.

Did the Dutch ADAPT to or MODIFY their environment?

☐ Modify: they changed the land itself with dikes ☐ Adapt: they changed their clothes ☐ Neither

✓ **Modify: they changed the land itself with dikes**

2 Box 2

All four places

In the simulator: Solve all four places.

What did you notice?

3 Box 3

Adapt, depend, or modify

Sort the solutions.

Sort: Norway's fishing fleets • Dutch dikes and polders • Great Plains irrigation • Wearing wool clothing in the Andes cold • Building homes on stilts near rivers

Adapt	Depend	Modify
Wearing wool clothing in the Andes cold Building homes on stilts near rivers	Norway's fishing fleets	Dutch dikes and polders Great Plains irrigation

4 Box 4

Consequences

What is one possible NEGATIVE consequence of irrigation on the Great Plains?

☐ Pumping too much groundwater can drain aquifers ☐ Crops grow too well ☐ It causes the sea to flood

✓ **Pumping too much groundwater can drain aquifers**

5 Box 5

Helpful or harmful?

Choose one example of people MODIFYING their environment. Was it helpful, harmful, or both?

Example

Look for: Names a modification; at least 8 words

Benefits

Look for: at least 10 words

Costs or risks

Look for: at least 10 words

Judgment

Look for: at least 8 words

6 Box 6

Legend: Indiana Legend only

Give one example of people in Indiana adapting to, depending on, or modifying the environment, and explain it.

Look for: at least 25 words



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do people adapt to, depend on, and modify their environments?

Look for: Human-environment interaction happens three ways: people adapt (terraces, clothing), depend on natural resources (Norway's fishing), and modify the environment (Dutch dikes and polders, irrigation). Modifying the environment brings benefits but can also cause problems, like drained aquifers.



Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	1RJ-E
 Investigator	LQB-I
 Legend	13O-L



Watch for these misconceptions

- "Latitude and longitude are the same thing." Latitude = north/south position, longitude = east/west position.
- "Places at the same latitude have the same climate." Elevation, oceans, and currents matter too.
- "South America is directly south of North America." Most of South America is east of Florida.