

Using the Land Answer Key

1. Which area of the world has been intensively used for the longest period of time?
Eurasia
2. Explain your answer.
The graph shows the most orange and red coloration over Europe and Asia. The orange and red coloration corresponds to 2,000 to 8,000-plus years of intensive human use of the land.
3. Why do you think houses are being built on farmland?
Houses are being built on farmland because people want to live in houses with yards instead of living close together in more urban environments.
4. What are the consequences of turning forest land into farmland? List two positive and two negative effects of turning forest land into farmland.
Two positive consequences of turning forest land into farmland: 1. More potential for food production. 2. Farmland can be left empty and not have to be used for the same crop over and over.

Two negative consequences of turning forest land into farmland: 1. Fewer trees available for lumber. 2. Less storage of carbon dioxide.
5. What are the consequences of turning forest land into residential land? List two positive and two negative effects of turning forest land into residential land.
Two positive consequences of turning forest land into residential land: 1. People live closer to nature if some of the forest land remains. 2. Less farmland is used for residential purposes.

Two negative consequences of turning forest land into residential land: 1. Habitat disruption as people encroach on natural land. 2. People living in areas more susceptible to forest fires if some of the forest land remains.
6. Describe the change in the amount of agricultural land in the United States from 1949 to 2007.
From 1949 to 2007, the amount of agricultural land in the United States declined.
7. Why do you think the land use changed this way?
More of the land in the United States was used for special-use purposes and urban areas. Maybe more parks were created from former farmlands, and people enlarged cities' boundaries as more of them moved to cities.
8. Is agricultural land evenly distributed around the world?
No

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9. What areas of the world are most suitable for agriculture?

The middle of North America, southeastern South America, most of Europe and India, equatorial Africa, eastern Asia, and the east coast of Australia are most suitable for agriculture.

10. Look at the red shading on the map (high-quality farmland and high development). Is there a risk to farmland in the United States from development?

Yes

11. Explain your answer.

High-quality farmland is represented by both green and red shading. The red shading shows where the farmland is being threatened by high development. There is a lot of red shading on the map around urban areas.

12. How certain are you about your claim based on your explanation?

Student answers will vary.

13. Explain what influenced your certainty rating.

Student answers will vary. Scientific evidence includes specific reference to the shading on the map.

14. Will there be enough food in the year 2050?

Yes

15. Explain your answer.

The population has increased at a high rate, but so has the rate of agricultural production. The population is not evenly distributed around the regions of the world, and neither is the agricultural production. But if the food can be shipped from areas of the world that have high production and low population to areas that have high population and low production, there should be enough food to feed everybody.

16. How certain are you about your claim based on your explanation?

Student answers will vary.

17. Explain what influenced your certainty rating.

Student answers will vary. Scientific evidence includes specific reference to the graphs. Students may state that there are food shortages around the world today or that scientific inventions may improve agricultural production in the future.