

Name _____



All This Was Grass - Student Worksheet

Landscape is all the features you can see in the land.

My father used to take us on long walks up the hills on a Sunday afternoon after dinner. Often we would sit down somewhere with a good view to eat a sandwich or munch on an apple. Almost always Dad would say, "Of course, when I was a boy ..." and the whole family would join in and finish the sentence with "... all this was grass".

Dad was talking about the difference between the farming landscape of his childhood to one forever changed. His small village of about one hundred people had grown to become a suburb of a large town of many thousands of people. Most of the grassy fields he had played in as a boy had been covered by houses, gardens, supermarkets, parks and factories and even by a small gold mine. Only a few spots of natural woodland remain to remind us of how the landscape used to be.

Back then, wandering gravel tracks followed the rises and fall of the land. Now wide straight black roads and a railway cut across the countryside to transport workers to and from the city.

After major floods forty years ago washed away twenty houses and a church, marshes were drained and streams channeled to stop further erosion. The flattened drained land was used for building more houses.

When they found gold in the hill behind the railway station, miners quickly moved in and dug out an open cut that eventually removed both the hill and the farm his uncle had owned. All you can see now is the small lake where water has filled the pit and



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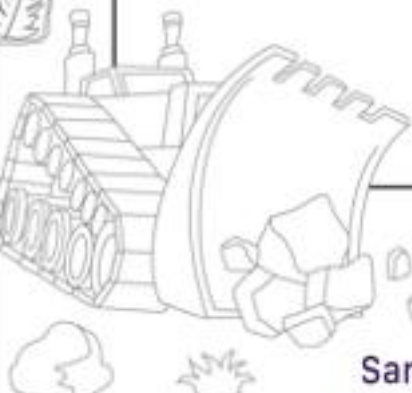
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flat topped piles of tailings left over from the workings.
I wonder what my grandchildren will see if they sit where I am sitting and look where dad and I used to look?

What change in the landscape was caused by natural processes such as wind and water?

List three changes caused by humans.

Before	After



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How do you think my father felt when he saw so many changes to the landscape of his childhood?

Use your imagination. Draw four landscape changes you could expect to happen in the next hundred years onto the picture below.

