

Name _____

Discovering the Geography of Illinois

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Early settlers in Illinois were drawn to the fertile prairies, which made excellent farmland. The presence of rivers like the Illinois River and the Mississippi River facilitated trade and transportation. Cities like Chicago grew around these transportation hubs.
2. Answers will vary but may include descriptions of hiking through rugged terrain, camping in the forest, and encountering unique rock formations like the Garden of the Gods.
3. Climate change could impact Illinois by altering precipitation patterns, affecting water levels in lakes and rivers, and potentially leading to changes in vegetation and wildlife.
4. The diverse geography of Illinois offers opportunities for outdoor activities, from relaxing on Lake Michigan's beaches to exploring the natural wonders of Shawnee National Forest. Additionally, urban centers like Chicago provide cultural attractions and vibrant city life.

