

Benchmark: G2a

Brief Constructed Response Prompt:

How might the rapid residential (housing) and commercial (business) development currently taking place in Sussex County, Delaware impact the region's physical environment? Please give details and/or examples to support your answer.

Sample Response(s): Answers may vary; one possible response...

The rapid conversion of farmland, forest, and open space to residential and commercial dwellings in Sussex County, Delaware is bound to impact the region's physical environment. The nearby waterways are threatened with increased amounts of harmful materials stemming from human activity, while the region's air quality may change as a result of deforestation. The habitats of native plant and animal species are also threatened possibly leading to reductions in numbers and also upsetting the natural food chain. Another possible response is that pollution from farming activities will be reduced.