Beyond the Headline

Trace a news issue from one person to communities across borders.

SS24.CWI.1b "Describe the impact of current news stories and the issues they present on the individual and on local, national, and international communities."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one effect on an individual, circle one local effect, box one national effect, and star one international effect to trace the issue across communities.

When Cocoa Costs More

1 In 2024, news outlets reported a sharp rise in cocoa prices after poor harvests in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, two major cocoa producers. Cocoa is the main ingredient in chocolate. Unusually dry weather and plant disease contributed to smaller crops. Imagine Maya, who runs a small bakery in an American town. When she reads the report, she checks the price her supplier charges for cocoa. A higher bill could lead her to raise the price of brownies or make fewer of them. The news helps Maya plan, but the harvest shortage, not the report itself, drives the cost change.

2 Maya's choices reach beyond her kitchen. If her bakery charges more, some customers may buy fewer brownies. If she makes fewer, she may order less packaging from a nearby shop. These are possible local effects, not outcomes guaranteed by one headline. Across the United States, chocolate companies also face higher ingredient costs. Some may change prices or package sizes, affecting shoppers in many states. A national news story can alert businesses and customers to those choices, while the cost pressure comes from a supply problem shared by many companies.

3 In Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, smaller harvests can reduce the amount farmers sell, even if market prices rise. A higher world price does not mean every farmer receives more income. Families whose earnings depend on cocoa may have less money for food, school costs, or equipment. Chocolate makers in other countries also buy cocoa from this international market, so the issue crosses borders. News coverage can draw attention to farmers' needs and prompt public discussion of support, but it cannot tell readers exactly what will happen to each family. To judge the story's reach, trace who faces a change and why.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could the cocoa shortage affect Maya as an individual, and how might reading the news change what she does?

2. Trace one possible chain of effects from Maya's bakery to another part of her local community.

3. How could this supply problem affect shoppers across the United States?

4. Why might farmers in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire earn less despite higher world cocoa prices, and how does their situation connect to other countries?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a current news report that floods have closed a rail line carrying food between two countries. In 5 to 6 sentences, describe one possible effect on an individual, a local community, a national community, and an international community, then explain how reading the report could shape one decision.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Headline

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.CWI.1b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one effect on an individual, circle one local effect, box one national effect, and star one international effect to trace the issue across communities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could the cocoa shortage affect Maya as an individual, and how might reading the news change what she does?	**Higher cocoa costs could lead Maya to raise brownie prices or make fewer brownies. Reading the report prompts her to check her supplier's price and plan.**
2	Trace one possible chain of effects from Maya's bakery to another part of her local community.	**If Maya makes fewer brownies, she may order less packaging from a nearby shop.**
3	How could this supply problem affect shoppers across the United States?	**Chocolate companies facing higher cocoa costs may change prices or package sizes, affecting shoppers in many states.**
4	Why might farmers in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire earn less despite higher world cocoa prices, and how does their situation connect to other countries?	**Smaller harvests mean farmers may have less cocoa to sell. Chocolate makers in other countries buy from the same international market.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A grocery shopper might find fewer imported vegetables and pay more. In a town near the rail line, store owners might look for other suppliers. Across the importing country, food distributors might change delivery routes, raising costs. In the exporting country, farmers could lose sales while the rail line is closed. Buyers and sellers on both sides of the border would feel the disruption. After reading the report, a store manager might order available local produce before deliveries are delayed.

Accept other plausible effects that follow from the passage or the imagined rail closure. Students should distinguish a news report's influence on decisions from the effects of the issue being reported.