Coffee Across Borders

Weighing the gains and risks of international trade

SS24.CWI.9b "Describe the costs and benefits of trade among nations in an interdependent world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two benefits of coffee trade and circle two costs. In the final paragraph, number the effects on farmers, U.S. roasters, and a café in the order described to show how a disruption crosses borders.

From Farm to Café

1. At a café in Chicago, a cup of coffee begins far from the counter. Farmers in Ethiopia grow coffee beans, which exporters sell to buyers in the United States. Ships carry the beans across the ocean, and American businesses roast, package, and serve them. This trade gives Ethiopian farmers a market beyond their own country and supports jobs at U.S. roasters and cafés. Customers gain access to coffee that cannot be grown on a large scale in most of the United States. Each step also depends on workers, fuel, and reliable transport.

2. The gains are not shared equally. Farmers may receive only a small share of the final café price because roasting, shipping, and retail sales add value after the beans leave the farm. If global coffee prices fall, a family that relies on coffee sales may struggle to pay its bills, even while customers still buy drinks. Shipping beans also burns fuel and releases greenhouse gases. Trade can create income and choice while placing financial risk on some producers and environmental costs on people beyond the buyer and seller.

3. Imagine that heavy rain damages roads between farms and an Ethiopian port. Farmers cannot send some beans to buyers, so they lose sales. U.S. roasters may face delays and have to find beans elsewhere or slow production. A café might raise its prices if supplies become harder to get. The same international links that support jobs and customer choice can spread the effects of a disruption across borders. Buyers could purchase beans from several regions to reduce their risk, but this would not replace the income lost by the farmers whose roads were damaged.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does this trade benefit both Ethiopian farmers and people in the United States?

2. Describe two costs of this trade and identify who bears each one.

3. How could damaged roads in Ethiopia affect a café in Chicago?

4. Buying beans from several regions could help U.S. buyers during a disruption. What problem might it reduce, and what problem would remain?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A country can import bicycles at a lower price than bicycles made locally. In four or five sentences, describe two benefits and two costs of importing bicycles, identify who experiences each, and explain whether you would support the trade.

ANSWER KEY

Coffee Across Borders

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.CWI.9b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two benefits of coffee trade and circle two costs. In the final paragraph, number the effects on farmers, U.S. roasters, and a café in the order described to show how a disruption crosses borders. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does this trade benefit both Ethiopian farmers and people in the United States?	**It gives Ethiopian farmers a market for their beans. It supports U.S. roasting and café jobs and gives customers access to coffee.**
2	Describe two costs of this trade and identify who bears each one.	**Farmers who rely on coffee sales risk losing income when global prices fall. Shipping releases greenhouse gases, an environmental cost that affects people beyond the buyer and seller.**
3	How could damaged roads in Ethiopia affect a café in Chicago?	**The roads could prevent beans from reaching buyers. U.S. roasters might then face delays, and the café might raise prices if supplies become harder to get.**
4	Buying beans from several regions could help U.S. buyers during a disruption. What problem might it reduce, and what problem would remain?	**It could help buyers find beans when one region cannot ship them. Farmers in the disrupted region would still lose sales.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lower-priced imported bicycles would help buyers spend less money. Bicycle makers abroad could gain sales and jobs. Local bicycle factories might lose orders, putting their workers' jobs at risk. Buyers could also face delays if overseas shipments were interrupted. I would support the trade because the lower prices help buyers, but I would also want support for local workers who lose jobs.

Accept other passage-supported benefits, costs, and links in the disruption. For Part 3, accept either position if the response identifies who gains and who bears each cost and explains the choice.