Chocolate Across Borders

Follow a commodity from farm to shopper.

SS24.HG.14 "Explain how economic interdependence and globalization impact countries and their populations. 14a Trace the flow of commodities among regions of the world..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the route cocoa takes from farm to shopper, circle two reasons this trade pattern develops, and number two things that could interrupt shipments.

From Cocoa Bean to Chocolate Bar

1. At a supermarket in Germany, a chocolate bar can begin with cocoa grown in Ghana. Ghana's warm, humid growing regions suit cocoa trees, while German factories have equipment and workers to turn cocoa into chocolate. Farmers sell beans to exporters, who ship them to processors; manufacturers then sell finished bars to stores. This chain connects farm incomes in West Africa with factory jobs and shoppers in Europe. It also shows that a country may export a raw commodity and import a finished product made from that same commodity. The added processing can earn manufacturers more than selling raw beans alone.

2. Trade rules can change the costs along that chain. Under a trade agreement, countries may reduce tariffs, which are taxes on imports, for certain goods. If an importing country cuts a tariff on Ghanaian chocolate, Ghanaian makers may gain customers abroad, supporting processing jobs and export earnings. Shoppers abroad may pay less if sellers pass on savings. Yet foreign chocolate makers could lose sales to cheaper imports, and the importing government could collect less tariff revenue. A pact may also lower Ghana's tariffs on imported machinery, helping its factories buy equipment while exposing local machine sellers to more competition.

3. Even when trade rules favor a shipment, goods still have to move. A strike at an exporting port could delay cocoa beans, leaving chocolate factories short of supplies. Heavy rain can damage roads between farms and ports, while a poor harvest can reduce the beans available to ship. Factories may seek beans elsewhere, but switching suppliers can take time or cost more. Delays can cut farmers' sales, reduce factory hours, and raise prices for shoppers. Countries that depend on trade therefore gain access to distant markets but also become vulnerable to disruptions far beyond their borders.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Trace cocoa from a Ghanaian farm to a German shopper. Why do Ghana and Germany play different roles in this trade?

2. If a country cuts its tariff on Ghanaian chocolate, how might that help people in Ghana and shoppers in the importing country?

3. How could lower tariffs on Ghanaian chocolate disadvantage both a business and a government in the importing country?

4. Suppose a strike delays cocoa beans at an exporting port. Trace one possible effect from the delay to a German factory and then to shoppers.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Luma grows cotton, Mera makes shirts, and Nivo buys them: Luma and Mera lower tariffs on cotton, but a storm closes Luma's main port. In one paragraph of five or six sentences, trace the cotton and shirts, explain why this trade pattern develops, and describe a benefit and a drawback of lower tariffs plus the storm's effects on people in two countries.

ANSWER KEY

Chocolate Across Borders

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HG.14

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the route cocoa takes from farm to shopper, circle two reasons this trade pattern develops, and number two things that could interrupt shipments. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Trace cocoa from a Ghanaian farm to a German shopper. Why do Ghana and Germany play different roles in this trade?	**Ghanaian farmers sell cocoa beans to exporters, who ship them to processors. German manufacturers make chocolate that stores sell to shoppers. Ghana's climate suits cocoa trees, while German factories have the equipment and workers to make chocolate.**
2	If a country cuts its tariff on Ghanaian chocolate, how might that help people in Ghana and shoppers in the importing country?	**Ghanaian makers may gain customers and support processing jobs. Shoppers in the importing country may pay less if sellers pass on the tariff savings.**
3	How could lower tariffs on Ghanaian chocolate disadvantage both a business and a government in the importing country?	**A local chocolate maker could lose sales to cheaper imports, and the government could collect less tariff revenue.**
4	Suppose a strike delays cocoa beans at an exporting port. Trace one possible effect from the delay to a German factory and then to shoppers.	**The factory may run short of beans and reduce work hours. Shoppers may face higher chocolate prices.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Luma exports cotton to Mera because Luma grows it and Mera has factories that turn it into shirts. Mera ships the finished shirts to buyers in Nivo. Lower cotton tariffs could reduce costs for Mera's factories and support jobs there. Mera's government might collect less tariff revenue, while its cotton growers might lose customers to cheaper imports. When the storm closes Luma's port, cotton deliveries slow and factory workers in Mera may lose hours. Nivo's shoppers may face shirt shortages or higher prices.

Accept other plausible effects when students connect them to the stated trade route, tariff change, or port closure. Shoppers pay less only if sellers pass on tariff savings.