Chocolate's Long Route

Trace how a commodity moves from farm to factory to store.

SS24.HG.14a "Trace the flow of commodities among regions of the world, explaining why patterns develop and identifying factors that might interrupt the transfer of goods."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the places cocoa or its ingredients travel and number them in travel order, then circle two reasons for the route and two events that could interrupt it.

From Ghana to a Chocolate Bar

1. A chocolate bar sold in Germany may begin as cocoa beans grown in Ghana, in West Africa. Farmers harvest pods, remove the beans, and dry them before traders buy them. Trucks carry the dried beans to Ghana's coastal ports, where ships load them for the Netherlands. This route connects a tropical growing region to a European manufacturing region. Cocoa trees need warmth and regular rain, conditions found in parts of Ghana but not in northern Europe. Dutch ports can receive large shipments, so exporters can send many farmers' beans on the same voyage.

2. At the port of Amsterdam, ships unload the beans for Dutch factories. Workers grind the beans into cocoa paste and separate some of that paste into cocoa butter. Manufacturers in Germany buy these ingredients and combine them with sugar and other ingredients to make chocolate. Trucks and barges can move goods between the neighboring countries. Processing near a busy port makes imported beans easier to handle, while Germany's factories and customers create demand for the finished product. The route is not a straight line from farm to shopper: growing, processing, and selling happen in different places.

3. The route can change when a link breaks. If unusually dry weather reduces Ghana's cocoa harvest, fewer beans are available to ship, and buyers may seek supplies from other growing countries. A strike at a Dutch port could delay unloading even if Ghana's harvest is strong. If the European Union imposed a new tariff on imported cocoa beans, Dutch processors would pay more, potentially raising German manufacturers' costs. These interruptions have different causes, but each affects a particular stage of the journey. Tracing that stage helps explain why a shortage or delay reaches stores far from the farm.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Trace the cocoa from the farm to the chocolate factory. Which countries does it pass through, and what happens to it in each?

2. Why does this route begin in Ghana and pass through the Netherlands before reaching Germany? Give one reason for each stop.

3. If dry weather reduces Ghana's harvest, which part of the route changes first, and how might buyers respond?

4. How could a new European Union tariff on imported cocoa beans affect the flow from Dutch factories to German manufacturers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a commodity other than cocoa. In four or five sentences, trace it through at least two world regions, explain two reasons for its route, and predict how one disruption would change its flow.

ANSWER KEY

Chocolate's Long Route

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HG.14a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the places cocoa or its ingredients travel and number them in travel order, then circle two reasons for the route and two events that could interrupt it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Trace the cocoa from the farm to the chocolate factory. Which countries does it pass through, and what happens to it in each?	**Farmers grow and dry cocoa beans in Ghana. The beans travel to the Netherlands for processing into cocoa paste and butter, which go to Germany to make chocolate.**
2	Why does this route begin in Ghana and pass through the Netherlands before reaching Germany? Give one reason for each stop.	**Ghana has the warmth and rain cocoa trees need. Dutch ports receive large shipments, and factories there process the beans before German manufacturers use the ingredients.**
3	If dry weather reduces Ghana's harvest, which part of the route changes first, and how might buyers respond?	**Fewer beans leave Ghana for shipment. Buyers may seek beans from other growing countries.**
4	How could a new European Union tariff on imported cocoa beans affect the flow from Dutch factories to German manufacturers?	**The tariff could raise Dutch processors' costs, making their cocoa ingredients more expensive for German manufacturers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Coffee beans grown in Colombia, South America, travel by ship to the United States, where they are roasted, then the roasted coffee goes to stores in Canada. Colombia has growing conditions suited to coffee plants, while U.S. roasting facilities can process large shipments. Canadian buyers create demand for the roasted coffee. If drought reduces Colombia's harvest, U.S. roasters may buy more beans from other countries, changing the first leg of the route.

Accept other accurate routes and disruptions in Part 3 if the response traces movement through at least two regions, explains two reasons for the pattern, and identifies a plausible change in the flow.