Roses Across Borders

Trade agreements connect distant markets and local lives

SS24.WH.17 "Analyze the effects of economic interdependence and globalization on places and their populations. 17a Explain motivations for countries to enter into global trade agreements..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons countries might enter the trade agreement. Circle two ways a change abroad could affect people in Kenya, and number one possible effect on government decisions.

From Lake Naivasha to Europe

1. At dawn, workers near Kenya's Lake Naivasha cut roses for buyers in Europe. Refrigerated trucks take the flowers to an airport, where flights carry them to stores far away. The work depends on fuel, planes, packaging, and customers in several countries. A trade agreement between Kenya and the European Union took effect in 2024. It allows Kenyan goods to enter EU markets without import taxes or quantity limits. Kenya, in turn, is set to remove import taxes on many EU goods over time, though some products are protected. The agreement makes it easier for businesses on both sides to plan trade.

2. Kenyan leaders may support the agreement because lower costs at the border can help flower farms sell more roses abroad. More sales could mean jobs, wages, and tax revenue for roads or schools. EU businesses also gain a larger market for goods they sell to Kenya. But a promise of access is not a promise of sales. A European recession could reduce flower orders, leaving Kenyan workers with fewer shifts. Higher fuel prices could raise shipping costs even when import taxes are low. Trade can connect places and spread opportunities, but it can also carry a distant economic shock into a local community.

3. Consider what happens if orders fall for months. Farm workers may struggle to pay rent, and nearby food sellers may lose customers. With less tax revenue, Kenya's government could face pressure to cut services or borrow money. Voters and worker groups might demand aid or stronger job protections, while exporters might ask officials to keep the agreement in place. Officials must decide whose needs to prioritize, and public debate could grow tense. These are possible effects, not a prediction that Kenya will make any one choice. Economic conditions can reshape both daily life and political decisions, even when the trade rules stay the same.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might Kenya and the EU each want to enter this agreement? Give one reason for each side.

2. Why might removing import taxes fail to keep Kenyan flower workers' hours steady? Explain two risks from the passage.

3. Trace how fewer flower orders from Europe could affect a food seller near a Kenyan flower farm.

4. If flower orders fall for months, what difficult choices could Kenya's government face, and how might people respond?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a developing country that exports bicycle parts and joins a trade agreement that lowers import taxes. In 4 to 5 sentences, explain one reason its leaders would join, then predict how a sudden rise in imported steel prices could affect workers and one government decision. Include a possible benefit and a risk of dependence on trade.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons countries might enter the trade agreement. Circle two ways a change abroad could affect people in Kenya, and number one possible effect on government decisions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might Kenya and the EU each want to enter this agreement? Give one reason for each side.	**Kenya may gain more flower sales, jobs, and tax revenue. EU businesses gain a larger market for their goods.**
2	Why might removing import taxes fail to keep Kenyan flower workers' hours steady? Explain two risks from the passage.	**A European recession could reduce flower orders, and higher fuel prices could make shipping more expensive.**
3	Trace how fewer flower orders from Europe could affect a food seller near a Kenyan flower farm.	**Fewer orders could reduce farm workers' shifts and wages, leaving them less money to spend with nearby food sellers.**
4	If flower orders fall for months, what difficult choices could Kenya's government face, and how might people respond?	**With less tax revenue, officials might have to cut services or borrow. Voters and worker groups might demand aid or stronger job protections, while exporters might want the agreement kept in place.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The country might join to sell more bicycle parts abroad and create jobs. Easier access to customers could raise factory income and tax revenue. If imported steel becomes more expensive, factories may cut hours or raise prices. Workers could have less money for food, while officials might consider temporary help for affected families. The agreement offers new markets, but dependence on imported steel makes local jobs vulnerable to price shocks.

Accept other causal chains supported by the passage for questions 2 through 4. For Your Turn, look for a plausible trade benefit, a steel-price effect on workers, a government decision, and a risk of dependence.