

Choices and Democracy

Read how market and mixed economy principles shaped the United States.

SS.7.E.1.1 "Explain how the principles of a market and mixed economy helped to develop the United States into a democratic nation."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show private economic choices, and circle two details that show government action. Number one detail that explains how citizens can influence economic rules.

An Economy With Choices

- ① In the early United States, many people earned a living by farming, making goods, or running small shops. In a market economy, people and businesses decide what to produce, sell, and buy. Prices help guide these choices. If many customers want shoes, a shoemaker may make more shoes. Competition among sellers can lead businesses to improve products or lower prices. These choices gave individuals economic independence, which supported the idea that citizens could make decisions in other parts of life too.
- ② The United States developed a mixed economy because government did not control every business decision, yet it played important roles. Governments created courts to enforce contracts and laws to protect property. Later, they set safety rules, built roads, and supported public schools. These actions could make trade more reliable and give more people a chance to participate in economic life. Voters could elect representatives who debated these laws, so citizens had a way to influence government choices about the economy.
- ③ Market and mixed economy principles did not benefit all Americans equally. Enslaved people were denied freedom and control over their work, and women and many other groups faced legal limits on property and voting. Over time, citizens used democratic methods, including voting, organizing, and lawmaking, to demand broader rights and fairer opportunities. The nation's system combined private choice with public action. This combination helped the United States grow, while democratic participation gave people tools to question and change economic rules.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did private economic choices and competition support the idea that citizens could make decisions in other parts of life?

2 Name two roles government played in the mixed economy. Then explain how one of those roles could help people participate in economic life.

3 How did voting connect democracy to decisions about the economy?

4 Why did the passage say market and mixed economy principles did not benefit all Americans equally? How did citizens work for change?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a town where residents want more local jobs but also want safe products and fair opportunities. Write four sentences explaining how private choices, government action, and citizen participation could work together in this town.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show private economic choices, and circle two details that show government action. Number one detail that explains how citizens can influence economic rules. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did private economic choices and competition support the idea that citizens could make decisions in other parts of life?	People and businesses could choose what to produce, sell, and buy. Competition encouraged sellers to improve products or lower prices, and economic independence supported the idea of citizen decision-making.
2	Name two roles government played in the mixed economy. Then explain how one of those roles could help people participate in economic life.	Government enforced contracts, protected property, set safety rules, built roads, and supported public schools. Any one role could make trade more reliable or give more people a chance to participate in economic life.
3	How did voting connect democracy to decisions about the economy?	Voters could elect representatives who debated economic laws, giving citizens a way to influence government choices about the economy.
4	Why did the passage say market and mixed economy principles did not benefit all Americans equally? How did citizens work for change?	Enslaved people were denied freedom and control over their work, while women and other groups faced limits on property and voting. Citizens used voting, organizing, and lawmaking to demand broader rights and fairer opportunities.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Local businesses could choose to open stores and hire workers based on what customers need. Competition could encourage the stores to offer better products or prices. The town government could enforce safety rules and improve roads for shoppers and businesses. Residents could vote for leaders who support rules that create fair opportunities.

Accept responses that accurately connect private business or consumer choices, a reasonable government role, and citizen influence through voting or another democratic method. Students may use different town examples if all three connections are clear.