

Trade Connections

Follow how buying and selling connect the United States to other countries.

SS.7.E.3 “Understand the fundamental concepts and interrelationships of the United States economy in the international marketplace.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three named U.S. exports, circle the two named imported products, and number 1, 2, and 3 the sentences that begin with *Because*, *When*, or *If* to track how one economic change affects another.

The U.S. in World Trade

- ① Each day, the United States takes part in a worldwide market when it sells goods and services to people in other countries and buys from them. For example, a U.S. company may export aircraft, soybeans, and computer software. An export brings money into the United States and can support workers who design, grow, build, or sell the product. Trade also gives businesses more customers than they could find only at home. Those sales connect American producers to decisions made far beyond their local communities.
- ② People and businesses can gain choices from imports, but imported goods have costs that can change. The United States also imports coffee and smartphones. Because a tariff is a tax on an import, it can raise the price paid by shoppers. When the U.S. dollar buys more of another country's currency, imported goods may cost fewer dollars. A weaker dollar can make U.S. exports less expensive for foreign buyers, which may help U.S. sellers compete. These currency changes affect choices made by buyers on both sides of a trade.
- ③ Trade links people in many places. A U.S. business may rely on parts or materials made in another country before it can sell a finished product. If a drought reduces a soybean harvest, buyers in other countries may receive less, and prices can rise. A shipping delay or a new trade rule can also interrupt this chain. Consumers may face fewer choices, while workers and businesses may need to adjust their plans as costs shift.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can exporting a U.S. product affect both a business's customers and its workers?

2 What two products does the passage name as imports to the United States?

3 Why can a tariff raise the price shoppers pay for an imported good?

4 What may happen to foreign buyers and prices if a drought reduces a U.S. soybean harvest?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about a U.S.-made or U.S.-grown product sold to another country. Name the product and the foreign buyer, then explain how one change, such as weather, a tariff, a shipping delay, or a currency change, could affect people in both countries.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three named U.S. exports, circle the two named imported products, and number 1, 2, and 3 the sentences that begin with *Because*, *When*, or *If* to track how one economic change affects another. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can exporting a U.S. product affect both a business's customers and its workers?	Exports can give a business more customers in other countries and can support workers who design, grow, build, or sell the product.
2	What two products does the passage name as imports to the United States?	Coffee and smartphones.
3	Why can a tariff raise the price shoppers pay for an imported good?	A tariff is a tax on an import, so it can add to the cost and raise the price paid by shoppers.
4	What may happen to foreign buyers and prices if a drought reduces a U.S. soybean harvest?	Foreign buyers may receive less soybean supply, and prices can rise.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A Florida company exports oranges to Canada. If a freeze reduces the orange harvest, Canadian buyers may receive fewer oranges. The smaller supply can raise prices and affect Florida farm workers and Canadian shoppers.

Accept any accurate three-sentence trade scenario that identifies a U.S. product, a buyer in another country, and a reasonable cause-and-effect connection. The response must explain an effect on people or businesses in both countries.