

Bike Supply Links

Trace how one business relies on people and businesses near and far.

SS.8.E.3.1 "Evaluate domestic and international interdependence."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each domestic connection, circle each international connection, and place a star beside each benefit or risk of depending on others.

Riverbend's Bicycle Network

- ① Riverbend Bikes, a company in Ohio, assembles commuter bicycles for stores across the United States. Its workers use steel frames made in Michigan, seats made in Tennessee, and tires purchased from a factory in Vietnam. Truck drivers carry the finished bicycles to regional warehouses, where workers prepare orders for local bike shops. The company depends on electricity providers, shipping firms, and many workers in other states. This domestic network lets each business specialize, but a delay at one link can affect the whole chain.
- ② Buying Vietnamese tires connects Riverbend to an international market. The tire factory earns income from its sale, while Riverbend can obtain a part it does not make itself. Customers may benefit if the company keeps prices lower or offers more bicycle choices. However, an ocean shipping delay, a fuel-price increase, or a trade policy change could raise Riverbend's costs. The company might then pay more for tires, wait longer for deliveries, or charge bike shops more.
- ③ Interdependence brings both opportunities and risks. Riverbend could look for a second tire supplier, keep extra tires in storage, or buy tires from a U.S. producer. A second supplier could reduce the chance that one disruption stops assembly. Yet switching suppliers might cost more, and buying fewer tires from Vietnam could reduce sales for that factory. To evaluate a choice, Riverbend must compare price, reliability, jobs, and effects on people and businesses at home and abroad.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What do the truck drivers and warehouse workers each do in Riverbend's domestic network?

2 How does buying tires from Vietnam create international interdependence for Riverbend and the tire factory?

3 Describe two ways an ocean shipping delay could affect Riverbend or its customers.

4 Which action in the passage could make Riverbend less likely to stop assembly during one disruption? Give one tradeoff of that action.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a product sold in your community. Write four sentences that identify one domestic connection and one international connection, describe one possible disruption, and evaluate one response by giving a benefit and a cost.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each domestic connection, circle each international connection, and place a star beside each benefit or risk of depending on others. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do the truck drivers and warehouse workers each do in Riverbend's domestic network?	Truck drivers carry finished bicycles to regional warehouses. Warehouse workers prepare orders for local bike shops.
2	How does buying tires from Vietnam create international interdependence for Riverbend and the tire factory?	Riverbend depends on the Vietnamese factory for tires, and the factory earns income by selling tires to Riverbend.
3	Describe two ways an ocean shipping delay could affect Riverbend or its customers.	Riverbend could wait longer for tires and pay more for tires. It could also charge bike shops more.
4	Which action in the passage could make Riverbend less likely to stop assembly during one disruption? Give one tradeoff of that action.	Using a second tire supplier could reduce the chance that one disruption stops assembly. Switching suppliers might cost more.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A smoothie shop in Florida buys oranges from a Florida grower and mangoes from Mexico. The shop depends on farm workers, delivery drivers, and its local electricity company. If storms delay mango shipments, the shop could use a second supplier. A second supplier may prevent empty shelves, but it could charge more, so smoothie prices might rise.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the passage's connections, benefits, risks, and tradeoffs. For Your Turn, accept any realistic product network that includes both domestic and international links, a plausible disruption, and a supported benefit and cost of a response.