

# Trade Links

How specialized work connects countries through trade

**SS6E2.a** "Explain how specialization encourages trade between countries."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline details that show why a country specializes, and circle each product named as part of trade between countries.

### Specialized Strengths

- ① Countries do not make every product equally well. Climate, natural resources, trained workers, and equipment affect what a country can produce efficiently. This focus on certain goods or services is called specialization. For example, Colombia's mountain climate and farming experience help growers produce coffee. Canada has large forests and mills that turn trees into lumber and paper. When each country concentrates on work it can do well, it may produce more goods at lower cost than it could by trying to make everything.
- ② Specialization encourages trade because countries still need items they do not specialize in making. Colombia can sell coffee to Canada. Canada can sell lumber or paper to Colombia. Money earned from exports helps each country buy imports. Both trading partners can gain access to products that would be harder, slower, or more costly to produce at home. Trade also gives producers a larger group of customers, so they can focus on improving their product and making enough to sell beyond their own borders.
- ③ Specialization does not mean a country produces only one thing. Canada and Colombia make many goods and services, but some industries are especially important in trade. Prices, weather, transportation, and customer demand can change what countries sell. A drought may reduce a coffee harvest, while a new paper mill may increase Canada's supply of paper. Even when conditions change, countries have reasons to trade when another country can provide a needed product efficiently. Trade links each country's specialized strengths to the needs of others.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How do Colombia's climate and farming experience help it specialize in coffee?

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**2** What products could Colombia and Canada trade with each other, according to the passage?

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**3** How can money earned from exports help a country continue trading?

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**4** Give two reasons a country might import a product instead of making it at home.

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Imagine Island A has warm, rainy hills and skilled cacao farmers. Country B has vast pine forests and paper mills. Write 3 sentences explaining what each place specializes in, what they trade, and how both places benefit.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline details that show why a country specializes, and circle each product named as part of trade between countries. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                 | ANSWER                                                                                                     |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How do Colombia's climate and farming experience help it specialize in coffee?           | <b>Colombia's mountain climate and its growers' farming experience help it produce coffee efficiently.</b> |
| 2 | What products could Colombia and Canada trade with each other, according to the passage? | <b>Colombia could sell coffee to Canada. Canada could sell lumber or paper to Colombia.</b>                |
| 3 | How can money earned from exports help a country continue trading?                       | <b>A country can use money earned from exports to buy imports it needs.</b>                                |
| 4 | Give two reasons a country might import a product instead of making it at home.          | <b>The product may be harder or slower to make at home, or it may cost more to produce there.</b>          |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Island A specializes in cacao, and Country B specializes in paper. Island A trades cacao to Country B, while Country B sends paper to Island A. Each country gets a needed product without using as much time and money to produce it itself.

Accept responses that connect a country's resources, climate, workers, or equipment to a specialized product. For the open response, accept any logical two-way trade that explains a benefit to both places.