Berries on the Move

How roads and messages help a town sell its harvest

5.SS.3.1 "Describe examples of improved transportation and communication networks and how they encourage economic growth."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each transportation or communication improvement. Underline details that show how an improvement helps people sell goods or earn money.

A Bigger Market for Willow Bend

1. In the town of Willow Bend, families grow strawberries to sell. For years, the dirt road out of town became muddy after rain. An old bridge could not carry heavy trucks. Farmers sold most berries at a nearby market because distant buyers were hard to reach. Berries that stayed on the farm too long often spoiled before anyone bought them.

2. The county built a paved road and a stronger bridge. Now large refrigerated trucks can pick up berries and carry them to stores in other towns. The cold trucks help keep the berries fresh during the trip. A farmer can sell more of a harvest instead of losing berries to spoilage. Stores get fresh fruit, and drivers earn money for making deliveries.

3. Willow Bend also gained better internet service. Farmers can send stores lists of berries ready to ship and receive orders the same day. A store can message a farmer if it needs more fruit next week, helping the farmer plan a pickup. With more orders, a packing business hires workers to sort berries into boxes. Those workers spend some of their pay at local shops.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the paved road and stronger bridge help farmers reach more buyers?

2. How do refrigerated trucks help farmers earn money from more of their harvest?

3. How does better internet service help farmers plan berry sales?

4. How can more berry orders help people and businesses besides the farmers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town that makes wooden chairs but has trouble selling them beyond town. Write three or four sentences describing one transportation improvement and one communication improvement, and explain how each could help the town's businesses earn more money.

ANSWER KEY

Berries on the Move

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each transportation or communication improvement. Underline details that show how an improvement helps people sell goods or earn money. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the paved road and stronger bridge help farmers reach more buyers?	**They let large trucks carry berries to stores in other towns.**
2	How do refrigerated trucks help farmers earn money from more of their harvest?	**They keep berries fresh on the trip, so farmers can sell berries that might otherwise spoil.**
3	How does better internet service help farmers plan berry sales?	**Farmers can send stores lists, receive orders the same day, and plan pickups when stores need fruit.**
4	How can more berry orders help people and businesses besides the farmers?	**A packing business hires workers, who spend some of their pay at local shops.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A new train stop lets chair makers ship chairs to stores in other cities. Better phone service lets store owners call in orders. With more buyers, the chair makers sell more chairs. They hire another worker to help build them.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of how improved transportation or communication leads to sales, jobs, or local spending. For Part 3, look for one plausible improvement of each type and a clear link from each improvement to increased earnings.