Across the Border

How the United States buys and sells in a global economy

5.SS.5.3 "Identify the role of the United States in a global economy."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two examples of the United States buying from other countries, circle two examples of it selling to other countries, and write 1 beside one way trade affects workers. These marks will help you identify the different roles the United States plays in the global economy.

From Store Shelves to Other Countries

1. At a grocery store in Ohio, Maya spots bananas from Ecuador and chocolate made with cocoa from Ghana. Those goods reached the United States through trade. When people in the United States buy goods produced in other countries, they are **importing** them. The money shoppers spend can support farmers, packers, and drivers in other countries, as well as workers at stores here.

2. Trade also moves goods out of the United States. A farm in Kansas grows wheat, and some of that wheat may be sold to buyers in Mexico. Selling goods to another country is called **exporting**. A sale like this can bring income to the U.S. farm and work to truck drivers and workers who store the grain. Buyers in Mexico gain wheat they can use to make food.

3. Goods are not the only things countries exchange. A U.S. company might sell its computer games to players in other countries. This brings money to the company and can create jobs for game makers here. At the same time, U.S. families may buy toys made abroad. The United States is part of a global economy because it buys from and sells to people across borders.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How is the United States an importer in Maya's grocery store? Give one example.

2. How is the United States an exporter in the wheat example, and who outside the United States benefits?

3. What does the U.S. game company sell to people in other countries, and how can that trade affect workers here?

4. Using two examples from the passage, explain how U.S. trade can affect people in other countries.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a U.S. business buys fabric from another country, sews reusable bags here, and sells some bags to a different country. Write three sentences: identify the U.S. role in each trade, describe one effect on U.S. workers, and describe one effect on people in another country.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.SS.5.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two examples of the United States buying from other countries, circle two examples of it selling to other countries, and write 1 beside one way trade affects workers. These marks will help you identify the different roles the United States plays in the global economy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is the United States an importer in Maya's grocery store? Give one example.	**The United States imports bananas from Ecuador or chocolate made with cocoa from Ghana.**
2	How is the United States an exporter in the wheat example, and who outside the United States benefits?	**A Kansas farm sells wheat to buyers in Mexico. Those buyers gain wheat they can use to make food.**
3	What does the U.S. game company sell to people in other countries, and how can that trade affect workers here?	**It sells computer games, which can create jobs for game makers in the United States.**
4	Using two examples from the passage, explain how U.S. trade can affect people in other countries.	**U.S. shoppers buying imported goods can support farmers and other workers abroad. U.S. wheat exports give buyers in Mexico wheat to make food.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States imports fabric when the business buys it from another country and exports bags when it sells them abroad. Sewing the bags can provide jobs for workers in the United States. Fabric sellers abroad can earn money, while buyers abroad can use the finished bags.

Accept any passage-supported example of importing, exporting, or an effect on people. For Your Turn, look for both trade roles and plausible effects on workers here and people abroad.