Coats for Winter

How economic systems shape everyday choices

6-9.WG.3.2 "Describe how different economic systems guide decisions about what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline what people decide to produce, circle how they produce it, and write a 1 beside who receives it in each paragraph.

Three Ways to Prepare for Winter

1. In Harbor Town, winter arrives with icy rain. In a market economy, shop owners watch what customers want and expect to pay. When many families ask for waterproof coats, several businesses decide to make them. Each business chooses materials and workers, perhaps buying fabric from a nearby mill and paying tailors to sew. Shops offer the coats to people willing and able to pay the price. Competition may push businesses to lower prices or improve quality, but people without enough money may have trouble getting a coat.

2. Across the bay, a government agency makes the main choices about winter coats in a planned economy. Officials decide how many waterproof coats factories should produce after estimating the region's winter needs. They assign fabric to factories and direct workers and machines to make the coats. The agency sends finished coats to public distribution centers, where its rules give each resident one coat without a store purchase. This plan aims to cover everyone, but a mistaken estimate could leave too few coats or unwanted sizes.

3. Far inland, families in Cedar Valley follow long-standing customs for making winter clothing. Elders teach younger relatives to weave thick wool capes, as earlier generations did. Households raise sheep, spin wool, and weave by hand, so custom guides both what they make and how they make it. Each household first provides capes for its members; neighbors may exchange extra capes for other goods. This traditional system uses shared knowledge, yet a poor wool harvest can limit how many capes families can provide.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In Harbor Town, how does the market guide what businesses make, how they make it, and who gets it?

2. In the planned economy across the bay, who decides what to make, how to make it, and who receives it?

3. How do customs guide what Cedar Valley families make, how they make it, and who gets it first?

4. How do Harbor Town and the community across the bay differ in the way they make coats and decide who gets them?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town needs reusable water bottles for summer. In 4 to 6 sentences, describe how a market economy and a planned economy could each decide what bottles to make, how to make them, and who gets them.

ANSWER KEY

Coats for Winter

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline what people decide to produce, circle how they produce it, and write a 1 beside who receives it in each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In Harbor Town, how does the market guide what businesses make, how they make it, and who gets it?	**Customer demand leads businesses to make waterproof coats. Businesses choose materials and workers, and people willing and able to pay the price get the coats.**
2	In the planned economy across the bay, who decides what to make, how to make it, and who receives it?	**Government officials decide how many waterproof coats to make, assign fabric and workers to factories, and use distribution rules to give each resident one coat.**
3	How do customs guide what Cedar Valley families make, how they make it, and who gets it first?	**Families make wool capes as earlier generations did. They raise sheep, spin wool, and weave by hand, then provide capes for their own household members first.**
4	How do Harbor Town and the community across the bay differ in the way they make coats and decide who gets them?	**In Harbor Town, businesses choose materials and workers, then sell coats to people able to pay. Across the bay, officials assign supplies and workers, then distribute one coat to each resident.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a market economy, sellers make insulated water bottles because customers want cold drinks in summer. Businesses hire workers and buy steel to make bottles at a cost they think buyers will pay. People who can afford the store price get the bottles. In a planned economy, officials decide to make enough simple refillable bottles for every resident. They assign steel and factory workers to produce them. Distribution centers give one bottle to each resident according to the government's plan.

Accept different bottle designs and production methods if each system's choices about what, how, and for whom are clear. Market responses should connect decisions to buyers and sellers; planned responses should connect them to government decisions.