Cocoa Across Borders

Trace how one crop connects jobs and trade across countries.

6-9.WG.3.5 "Identify economic connections between local, national, and global economies in regions throughout the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one local job, circle one Ghana-wide economic activity, and draw a box around one trade link between countries. Draw arrows between your marks to show how the economies connect.

From Cocoa Pods to Chocolate Bars

1. Before sunrise in a village in Ghana, farmers cut ripe cocoa pods and remove the beans. Neighbors are paid to help ferment and dry the beans, which gives them a chance to earn money close to home. A truck driver buys fuel and carries sacks from the village to a warehouse near the coast. The farmers, the helpers, and the driver are part of a local economy. Their work also depends on buyers beyond the village who are willing to pay for the beans.

2. Across Ghana, warehouses gather cocoa from many farming areas. Ghanaian companies may process some beans into cocoa butter or powder, while other beans are shipped abroad. Workers at ports load exports onto ships, and exporters receive payments from overseas buyers. These sales bring money into Ghana's national economy, not just into one farming village. The government also collects taxes from parts of the cocoa business and can use that revenue to pay for public services, such as roads.

3. For example, a company in the Netherlands can buy beans from Ghana and make chocolate for stores in the United States. Dutch factory workers and U.S. shop workers earn income as the product moves. If U.S. stores order less chocolate, the Dutch company may buy fewer beans. Ghanaian exporters may then earn less, and pressure to lower future farm prices may grow. Prices also depend on other buyers and harvests. A decision in one country can affect work and income in places far away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do buyers beyond the village connect cocoa farmers' local work to a wider economy?

2. How does the truck driver's work help connect the village to Ghana's export economy?

3. How can cocoa sales to overseas buyers affect public services in Ghana?

4. If U.S. stores order less chocolate, how might that affect businesses in the Netherlands and Ghana?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine farmers in an Indian village sell cotton to a mill elsewhere in India. The mill makes cloth for a shirt factory in Bangladesh, and Canadian shops sell the shirts. In three or four sentences, explain how the village connects to India's economy, how the countries connect through trade, and one possible effect if Canadian orders fall.

ANSWER KEY

Cocoa Across Borders

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.3.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one local job, circle one Ghana-wide economic activity, and draw a box around one trade link between countries. Draw arrows between your marks to show how the economies connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do buyers beyond the village connect cocoa farmers' local work to a wider economy?	**Farmers earn money for their beans because buyers beyond the village are willing to purchase them.**
2	How does the truck driver's work help connect the village to Ghana's export economy?	**The driver carries village cocoa to a warehouse near the coast, where cocoa from farming areas can enter the export trade.**
3	How can cocoa sales to overseas buyers affect public services in Ghana?	**Overseas sales bring money into Ghana. Taxes from parts of the cocoa business can help pay for services such as roads.**
4	If U.S. stores order less chocolate, how might that affect businesses in the Netherlands and Ghana?	**The Dutch company may buy fewer beans from Ghana. Ghanaian exporters may earn less, and pressure to lower future farm prices may grow.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Village farmers earn money by selling cotton to a mill elsewhere in India. The mill's workers turn it into cloth, linking the village to jobs in India's wider economy. The cloth goes to Bangladesh, where factory workers sew shirts for Canadian shops. If Canadian orders fall, the factory might buy less Indian cloth, so the mill might buy less village cotton.

Accept other accurate links supported by the passage. For the open task, accept a reasonable predicted effect that follows the stated supply chain.