Fish for Bread

How Iceland's landscape shapes work and trade

6-9.WG.3.7 "Investigate how physical geography, natural resources, specialization, and trade have influenced the way people meet their material needs."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways Iceland's geography limits or supports production, and circle two local resources people use. Number three steps that connect selling fish to getting bread.

What Iceland Can Make and Trade

1. In Iceland, cold seas and a short growing season shape what people can produce. Much of the land is rocky, and glaciers cover large areas, so growing grain outdoors is difficult. The sea, however, supports fish such as cod and herring. Fishing boats bring their catch to ports, where workers clean, freeze, and pack it. These jobs help supply food for people in Iceland. They also create products that can be sold abroad. The same landscape that limits one kind of food production supports another.

2. Iceland also has underground heat because it lies where sections of Earth's crust pull apart. Hot water from below ground warms many homes and some greenhouses. Inside those greenhouses, farmers grow vegetables even when outdoor conditions are too cold. This does not mean Iceland can grow everything it needs. Greenhouse space is limited, and crops such as wheat still arrive from other countries. Using local heat lets people meet part of their need for warmth and fresh food without depending only on imported fuel or produce.

3. Fish processing is one way Iceland specializes: workers and businesses focus on catching fish and preparing it for buyers. Ships and planes carry fish products to other countries. Money earned from selling fish helps pay for imported grain. That grain helps people make bread even when local fields produce little wheat. Trade also means food supplies depend partly on transport and trading partners. If deliveries are delayed, stores may have less imported grain. Geography, resources, work, and exchange all shape what is available.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Iceland's physical geography make growing grain difficult but support another way to get food?

2. How does a local natural resource help people meet their needs for warmth and fresh food?

3. Explain how specializing in fish processing helps people in Iceland get bread.

4. Why could a delay in deliveries affect the bread available in Iceland?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a windy island with rocky soil, a sheltered harbor, and a nearby region that grows grain. In four sentences, explain how islanders could use their geography and a natural resource to specialize, trade, and meet a material need.

ANSWER KEY

Fish for Bread

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.3.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways Iceland's geography limits or supports production, and circle two local resources people use. Number three steps that connect selling fish to getting bread. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Iceland's physical geography make growing grain difficult but support another way to get food?	**Rocky land, glaciers, and a short growing season make outdoor grain farming difficult. The surrounding sea supports fish that people can catch for food.**
2	How does a local natural resource help people meet their needs for warmth and fresh food?	**Underground heat provides hot water that warms homes and greenhouses, where farmers can grow vegetables despite cold outdoor conditions.**
3	Explain how specializing in fish processing helps people in Iceland get bread.	**Workers prepare fish to sell abroad. Money from those sales helps pay for imported grain, which people use to make bread.**
4	Why could a delay in deliveries affect the bread available in Iceland?	**Iceland produces little wheat locally and imports grain, so delayed deliveries could leave stores with less grain for bread.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rocky soil makes it hard for islanders to grow enough grain for bread. Strong winds could turn turbines that provide electricity for boat-repair shops beside the sheltered harbor. Workers could specialize in repairing boats for visitors from the grain-growing region. Money earned from those repairs could pay for imported grain, helping islanders make bread.

Accept other plausible four-sentence plans that connect the island's geography and a natural resource to specialized work, trade, and a material need. For the marking job, accept geographic limits or opportunities and resources clearly identified in the passage.