From Shelf to Forest

Trace how global trade changes cities and habitats.

6-9.WG.5.6 "Explain the causes and consequences of current global issues, including the expansion of global markets, the urbanization of the developing world, the consumption of natural resources, and the extinction of species."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB READ AND MARK: Underline causes of change, circle effects on cities or wildlife, and number three linked events in one cause-and-effect chain.

The Reach of Palm Oil

1. Palm oil is found in snacks, soap, and many other products sold around the world. It comes from the fruit of oil palm trees, which grow well in warm, wet places such as Indonesia. As more buyers seek these products, companies can sell palm oil to more countries. This wider market gives farmers and businesses a reason to grow more oil palms. Some growers plant them on land that was once tropical forest. Clearing forest makes room for crops, but it also removes trees that store carbon and shelter wildlife.

2. The same trade can change nearby cities. Palm oil must be pressed, packed, shipped, and sold, so processing plants and ports need workers. Some people move from rural areas to cities to seek these jobs. More workers may mean more income for families and more customers for local shops. Yet fast city growth can strain housing, roads, and clean water systems, especially when services do not keep pace. Cities may also spread onto farmland or forest as new homes and roads are built.

3. In Indonesia, orangutans depend on forests for food and places to raise young. When forests are cut into smaller patches for farms or roads, these animals can struggle to find food and mates. If populations keep shrinking, extinction becomes a greater risk, though it is not certain. Choices can change this chain of effects. Growers can use land that has already been cleared, and governments can protect remaining forest while planning housing and water services. Buyers can ask companies how their palm oil was produced.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can growing demand for palm oil lead to forest clearing?

2. Why might palm oil trade cause a nearby city to grow, and what problem could follow?

3. How can clearing forest for farms or roads increase the risk of orangutan extinction?

4. Choose one action in the passage. How could it interrupt a harmful effect of palm oil trade?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

YOUR TURN: A growing global market for wooden furniture increases timber sales near a rapidly growing city. In five sentences, explain why the forest might change, why the city might grow, two possible consequences for people and wildlife including extinction risk, and one way to reduce harm.

ANSWER KEY

From Shelf to Forest

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.5.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

READ AND MARK: Underline causes of change, circle effects on cities or wildlife, and number three linked events in one cause-and-effect chain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can growing demand for palm oil lead to forest clearing?	**More demand gives growers a reason to plant more oil palms. Some clear tropical forest to make room.**
2	Why might palm oil trade cause a nearby city to grow, and what problem could follow?	**Processing plants and ports need workers, so people may move to the city for jobs. Rapid growth can strain housing, roads, or clean water systems.**
3	How can clearing forest for farms or roads increase the risk of orangutan extinction?	**Clearing divides their habitat into smaller patches, making food and mates harder to find. If populations keep shrinking, extinction risk rises.**
4	Choose one action in the passage. How could it interrupt a harmful effect of palm oil trade?	**Growers could plant on already cleared land, reducing the need to remove more forest habitat.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Higher furniture sales can push logging companies to cut more trees to supply wood. Sawmills and shipping businesses may draw workers to the nearby city. If the city grows too quickly, housing and water services may struggle to keep up. Logging can split forest habitat, raising the risk of extinction for a species if its populations shrink across its whole range. Protecting some forest while getting wood from carefully managed areas could reduce that risk.

Accept other cause-and-effect chains supported by the passage. In the open task, look for a plausible link between timber demand and forest change, a reason for city growth, effects on people and wildlife, and an action that addresses a stated harm.