Trade Changes Work

Trace how trade affected countries across three historical periods.

6.E.2 "Analyze how countries of Europe and the Americas have been influenced by trade in different historical periods."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the paragraphs from earliest to latest, underline the goods traded, and circle one way trade changed a country in each paragraph.

Across the Atlantic and the Border

1. In the 1500s and 1600s, ships carried sugar from Portuguese-ruled Brazil to buyers in Europe. European demand made sugar plantations profitable for Portuguese merchants and landowners in Brazil. Plantations cleared land to grow sugarcane, changing parts of Brazil's landscape. Enslaved Africans were forced to do much of the hard work of growing and processing the crop. Their labor created wealth for others but brought violence and loss of freedom to them. This trade linked Brazil and Europe, yet its rewards and costs were shared unequally.

2. In the 1800s, cotton became another Atlantic trade good. Before slavery ended in the United States in 1865, enslaved people grew much of the cotton shipped from the American South to Britain. British factories turned cotton into cloth and sold cloth at home and abroad. The trade helped factory towns grow in Britain and made cotton a major crop in the southern United States. It also tied British industry to a system of forced labor across the ocean. Trade changed both places, but not everyone benefited.

3. By the late 1900s, trade between the United States and Mexico looked different. Some companies sent parts across the border to factories in Mexico, where workers assembled products such as cars for sale in both countries. Trade agreements lowered many barriers to this exchange. Factory jobs grew in parts of Mexico, while some U.S. workers faced competition when companies moved production. Unlike the enslaved workers described earlier, these factory workers earned wages. Still, debates continued about pay, working conditions, and who gained most from trade.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did European demand for sugar change Brazil in the 1500s and 1600s? Name one benefit and one cost described in the passage.

2. How did cotton trade change Britain and the southern United States in the 1800s?

3. Compare the work done in Britain during the 1800s cotton trade with the work done in Mexico during late-1900s trade.

4. How were the effects of trade on workers different in the early sugar trade and the late-1900s trade between the United States and Mexico?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence label for a museum display about how trade changes work. Connect two periods from the passage, include at least two specific facts, state your own conclusion, and end with a question for visitors to consider.

ANSWER KEY

Trade Changes Work

GRADE 6 · 6.E.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the paragraphs from earliest to latest, underline the goods traded, and circle one way trade changed a country in each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did European demand for sugar change Brazil in the 1500s and 1600s? Name one benefit and one cost described in the passage.	**Sugar sales brought wealth to Portuguese merchants and landowners in Brazil. Plantations also cleared land, and enslaved Africans were forced to work there.**
2	How did cotton trade change Britain and the southern United States in the 1800s?	**Factory towns grew in Britain as mills made cloth. Cotton became a major crop in the southern United States, where enslaved people grew much of it before 1865.**
3	Compare the work done in Britain during the 1800s cotton trade with the work done in Mexico during late-1900s trade.	**British factory workers turned cotton shipped from the United States into cloth. Mexican factory workers assembled products such as cars using parts sent from the United States.**
4	How were the effects of trade on workers different in the early sugar trade and the late-1900s trade between the United States and Mexico?	**Enslaved Africans on sugar plantations were forced to work without freedom. Factory workers in Mexico earned wages, though pay and working conditions remained concerns.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Trade can build industries while changing people's lives in very different ways. In the 1800s, British factories turned cotton from the American South into cloth, but enslaved people grew much of that cotton. By the late 1900s, factories in Mexico assembled products using parts sent from the United States, and workers earned wages. Who benefits when trade changes where people work?

Accept other passage-supported effects and comparisons. For the museum label, look for two distinct periods, two accurate facts, an original conclusion, and a final question.