Who Gets What?

How economic systems make choices

6.E.4 "Describe how different economic systems (traditional, command, market, and mixed) in Europe and the Americas answer the basic economic questions on what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each system's example, underline what is made or provided, circle how it is made or provided, and write F beside the words that tell who gets it.

Four Ways to Make Choices

1. Every community must answer three questions: What goods or services will people make? How will they make them? Who will receive them? Picture an Andean village in South America where families have grown potatoes for generations. In this traditional system, customs guide the choices. Families plant potatoes on shared land, using methods taught by older relatives. After harvest, households keep some potatoes and share others with neighbors. The village does not vote on a new crop each year or wait for shoppers to place orders.

2. A command system gives government leaders major control over these choices. In the former Soviet Union, which stretched across eastern Europe and Asia, officials ordered steel for railroad tracks. State-owned factories used assigned workers and machines to make it. The government sent the steel to railroad projects it chose. A market system works differently. At a fruit stand in the United States, a grower chooses to sell peaches because customers want them. The grower hires pickers and uses a truck; people who pay for the peaches receive them.

3. In Canada, a mixed system combines business choices with government decisions. A baker may choose to make bread, hire workers, and sell loaves to customers who pay. At the same time, provincial governments use tax money to fund public schools. Teachers and other school staff use classrooms and learning materials to provide lessons to children in their communities. Families do not buy each lesson from a teacher. Canada is not entirely market or command: businesses usually choose what to sell, while governments provide some services for the public.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In the Andean village's traditional system, what do families produce, how do they produce it, and who receives it?

2. In the Soviet Union example, what did officials order, how was it made, and where did it go?

3. At the U.S. fruit stand, what does the grower choose to sell, how does the grower get it to the stand, and who receives it?

4. In Canada's mixed system, how do the baker and the government each answer what to provide, how to provide it, and who receives it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town that needs winter coats. In four to six sentences, compare how a traditional system and a mixed system could decide what coats to make, how to make them, and who receives them. Make your examples different from those in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Who Gets What?

GRADE 6 · 6.E.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each system's example, underline what is made or provided, circle how it is made or provided, and write F beside the words that tell who gets it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In the Andean village's traditional system, what do families produce, how do they produce it, and who receives it?	**Families grow potatoes on shared land using methods taught by older relatives. Their households keep some, and neighbors receive some.**
2	In the Soviet Union example, what did officials order, how was it made, and where did it go?	**Officials ordered steel for railroad tracks. State-owned factories made it with assigned workers and machines, and the government sent it to chosen railroad projects.**
3	At the U.S. fruit stand, what does the grower choose to sell, how does the grower get it to the stand, and who receives it?	**The grower sells peaches, hires pickers, and uses a truck. People who pay receive the peaches.**
4	In Canada's mixed system, how do the baker and the government each answer what to provide, how to provide it, and who receives it?	**The baker hires workers to make bread and sells it to paying customers. Provincial governments fund public schools with taxes, and school staff use classrooms and materials to teach children in their communities.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a traditional system, families make thick winter coats like the ones their relatives have made for years. They sew the coats by hand using skills passed down at home. Family members wear the finished coats. In a mixed system, shop owners choose which winter coats to make and use sewing machines and workers to produce them for customers. The town also uses tax money to buy coats from the shops and gives those coats to children whose families need help paying for them.

Accept other accurate examples that identify what is produced, how it is produced, and who receives it under each named system. For the mixed system, look for both a business choice and a government role.