When Supplies Break

How connections at home and abroad shaped U.S. history

8.E.4 "Explain and evaluate examples of domestic and international interdependence throughout United States history."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one connection between groups inside the United States and circle two connections between the United States and other places. Write B beside one benefit and R beside one risk of these connections.

When a Supply Line Breaks

1. In the 1850s, cotton linked people far apart. Enslaved workers on Southern plantations grew and picked it under violent conditions. Northern mills turned some of that cotton into cloth, while ships carried much of it to British mills. This trade earned money for growers, merchants, and mill owners, but it rested on slavery. During the Civil War, the Union blockade reduced cotton exports. British mills lost a major source of raw cotton, and many workers there lost jobs. A profitable connection had also made distant workers vulnerable to a war in the United States.

2. During World War II, American trucks and planes needed rubber for tires and other parts. The United States imported most of its natural rubber from Southeast Asia. In 1942, Japan occupied Malaya, a major rubber source, cutting off much of that supply. The federal government rationed tires and gasoline to reduce tire wear. American chemical plants also expanded production of synthetic rubber made from petroleum. This shift helped keep vehicles moving, but new factories took time to build. A foreign supply shock forced workers, businesses, and the government at home to change their plans.

3. In 1973, several Arab oil-producing countries stopped selling oil to the United States after it supported Israel in a war. The United States produced oil at home but also relied on imports. When supplies tightened and prices rose, drivers faced long lines at gas stations. Higher fuel costs also raised costs for businesses that moved goods by truck. The embargo ended in 1974, but it exposed a weakness: a decision overseas could quickly affect businesses and daily life at home. Imports offered access to more oil, yet relying on them carried risks when politics changed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Southern cotton growers and Northern mills depend on each other? Why was this connection harmful as well as profitable?

2. How did the Civil War show that U.S. trade with Britain created a risk for people outside the United States?

3. How did losing rubber from Malaya change what the U.S. government and businesses did? Did their response reduce the risk? Use a detail from the passage.

4. How did the international oil link affect people and businesses inside the United States in 1973? Was the link only harmful? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two periods in the passage. In one paragraph, make a claim about whether interdependence brought more benefits or risks across those periods, explain a domestic and an international connection, and weigh a benefit against a risk.

ANSWER KEY

When Supplies Break

GRADE 8 · 8.E.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one connection between groups inside the United States and circle two connections between the United States and other places. Write B beside one benefit and R beside one risk of these connections. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Southern cotton growers and Northern mills depend on each other? Why was this connection harmful as well as profitable?	**Southern growers supplied cotton that Northern mills made into cloth. The trade earned money, but it relied on the forced labor of enslaved people.**
2	How did the Civil War show that U.S. trade with Britain created a risk for people outside the United States?	**The Union blockade reduced cotton exports. British mills lost a major source of cotton, and many of their workers lost jobs.**
3	How did losing rubber from Malaya change what the U.S. government and businesses did? Did their response reduce the risk? Use a detail from the passage.	**The government rationed tires and gasoline, while chemical plants expanded synthetic rubber production. The response reduced the risk by helping keep vehicles moving, though new factories took time to build.**
4	How did the international oil link affect people and businesses inside the United States in 1973? Was the link only harmful? Explain.	**Drivers faced gas lines, and higher fuel costs raised costs for businesses that moved goods by truck. The link was not only harmful because imports also gave the United States access to more oil.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Across the cotton economy and World War II rubber shortage, interdependence created serious risks, even when it brought benefits. Southern cotton supplied Northern mills, helping mills make cloth, but this trade relied on the forced labor of enslaved people. During World War II, U.S. vehicles depended on rubber imported from Southeast Asia; Japan's occupation of Malaya cut off much of that supply. Unlike the cotton trade, the rubber crisis led American chemical plants to expand a substitute. Adaptation helped, but it did not erase the danger of relying on distant supplies.

Accept other passage-supported benefits, risks, and judgments. For Part 3, look for a claim spanning two periods, a domestic link, an international link, and a reasoned comparison of a benefit and a risk.