Who Decides?

Sort economic decisions by who makes them.

GE.2.2 "Identify questions that must be answered by any economic system and how they are categorized by how they answer the basic economic questions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

MARKET SYSTEM	COMMAND SYSTEM
Buyers and sellers largely answer what to produce, how to produce it, and who receives it through their choices and exchanges.	Government planners largely answer what to produce, how to produce it, and who receives it by giving binding instructions.
Independent kayak builders expand their output after a surge in reservations.	National planners assign bicycle assembly quotas and direct deliveries to schools.

1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle MARKET or COMMAND, then choose two item numbers for Part 2 and explain the clue that led to each choice.

1.	Rice growers switch to beans after shoppers buy more of them.	MARKET	COMMAND
2.	The state requires textile mills to use a specified method for making cloth.	MARKET	COMMAND
3.	A national agency assigns apartments to households using a fixed waiting list.	MARKET	COMMAND
4.	Competing phone companies change their service plans to attract subscribers.	MARKET	COMMAND
5.	Restaurants decide how many meals to prepare by watching customer purchases.	MARKET	COMMAND
6.	The government requires every shoe workshop to make a set number of boots.	MARKET	COMMAND
7.	Fish sellers lower their asking prices when unsold fish pile up.	MARKET	COMMAND
8.	Farmers grow more strawberries because buyers pay more for them.	MARKET	COMMAND

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new MARKET example and one new COMMAND example; make each show who decides what to produce, how to produce it, or who receives it.

MARKET _____

COMMAND _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one basic economic question, what, how, or for whom, and explain how a market system and a command system would answer it differently for the same good.

Who Decides?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Rice growers switch to beans after shoppers buy more of them.	**MARKET**	Growers respond to shoppers' choices about what to produce.
2	The state requires textile mills to use a specified method for making cloth.	**COMMAND**	The state directs how the cloth must be produced.
3	A national agency assigns apartments to households using a fixed waiting list.	**COMMAND**	An agency decides who receives the apartments.
4	Competing phone companies change their service plans to attract subscribers.	**MARKET**	Companies respond to customers' choices.
5	Restaurants decide how many meals to prepare by watching customer purchases.	**MARKET**	Restaurants use purchases to decide how much to produce.
6	The government requires every shoe workshop to make a set number of boots.	**COMMAND**	The government sets production amounts.
7	Fish sellers lower their asking prices when unsold fish pile up.	**MARKET**	Sellers adjust prices in response to what buyers purchase.
8	Farmers grow more strawberries because buyers pay more for them.	**MARKET**	Farmers respond to buyers' willingness to pay.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **MARKET**: Food trucks sell more soup when customers request it.
- **COMMAND**: A government office directs food trucks to distribute a fixed number of soup servings at assigned locations.

Challenge: For whom: In a market system, shoppers buy winter coats from stores. In a command system, officials assign winter coats to households using a government list.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a buyer or seller choice for MARKET, or a binding government decision for COMMAND. For Part 3, the decision-maker and the basic economic question should be clear.