Who Shapes Millhaven?

Trace how three kinds of organizations affect a local economy.

GE.3.4 "Explain the role and effect of labor unions, nonprofit organizations, and cooperatives in a given economy."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB For each of the three groups, underline one action and circle one economic effect. Number each action and its matching effect with the same number.

Three Ways to Shape an Economy

1. In Millhaven, a new packaging plant brought jobs, but workers reported unpredictable shifts. Many joined a labor union, an organization workers use to act together at work. Elected representatives asked management for a written agreement on shift notice, wages, and safety training. After negotiations, the plant agreed to post schedules two weeks ahead and pay for training. Workers could plan child care, while the plant faced higher training costs. The agreement did not make the union the plant's owner or guarantee that every demand would be met. It changed how employees and management made decisions about working conditions.

2. Across town, families whose incomes changed from month to month struggled to keep food at home. A nonprofit food center collected donations and grants, then bought fresh produce from nearby farms. It offered free groceries and cooking classes to families who needed them. Unlike a business that pays profits to owners, the center used any money left after expenses to support its mission. Its purchases gave farmers another buyer, and its groceries eased pressure on household budgets. Still, donations could fall, limiting how many families it served. The center helped fill a gap without replacing the town's grocery businesses.

3. At the same time, small farmers in Millhaven had trouble paying for refrigerated storage on their own. Twelve farms formed a cooperative, a business owned and governed by its members. Each farm paid a membership fee and received one vote. Together they bought a shared cooler and sold produce under one label. Shared storage cut waste and helped farms reach larger buyers, including the food center. Members shared costs and any surplus according to their agreement, rather than sending profits to outside investors. If the cooler broke, however, the farms had to decide together how to pay for repairs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the union change working conditions at the plant, and what cost did the plant face?

2. How did the nonprofit food center affect families and farmers, and what could limit its work?

3. How did owning the cooperative together help the farmers, and what responsibility did they share?

4. How did the cooperative and nonprofit food center affect each other in Millhaven's economy?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town faces rising home heating costs. In five or six sentences, propose distinct actions a workers' union, a nonprofit organization, and a cooperative could take; explain one likely economic effect of each action and one practical limit or tradeoff.

ANSWER KEY

Who Shapes Millhaven?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

For each of the three groups, underline one action and circle one economic effect. Number each action and its matching effect with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the union change working conditions at the plant, and what cost did the plant face?	**Negotiations led the plant to post schedules two weeks ahead and pay for safety training. The plant faced higher training costs.**
2	How did the nonprofit food center affect families and farmers, and what could limit its work?	**Free groceries eased pressure on families' budgets, and the center's purchases gave farmers another buyer. Falling donations could limit the number of families served.**
3	How did owning the cooperative together help the farmers, and what responsibility did they share?	**Shared storage cut waste and helped the farmers reach larger buyers. Members shared costs and had to decide how to pay for repairs.**
4	How did the cooperative and nonprofit food center affect each other in Millhaven's economy?	**The cooperative helped farms store and sell produce to larger buyers, including the food center. The center's purchases gave those farmers another buyer while helping it supply groceries to families.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A union of heating technicians could negotiate paid safety training and predictable hours with local employers. Better-trained workers might make fewer installation errors, although training would cost employers money. A nonprofit could use donations to help low-income residents insulate their homes. Lower energy bills would leave those households more money for other needs, but the program could shrink if donations fell. Residents could form a cooperative to buy heating equipment in bulk and give each member a vote on purchases. Shared buying might reduce prices, though members would need to contribute money up front.

Accept other passage-supported effects in Part 2. For Part 3, look for distinct roles, plausible economic effects, and at least one realistic limit or tradeoff.