Across the Supply Chain

Trace how trade connects work and daily life across borders.

GE.4.1 "Synthesize evidence which suggests that most of the world's countries are interdependent."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that link different countries, then number two details that show how a change in one place could affect people elsewhere.

More Than One Country

1 Imagine a smartphone bought in Kenya. Its design might come from a company in the United States, its copper could be mined in Chile, and its memory chips might be made in South Korea. Workers in Vietnam could assemble the parts before a shipping company delivers the finished phone. No country in this example supplies everything alone. The countries also depend on buyers: if people stop purchasing phones, factories may cut orders for chips and copper. A single purchase can connect miners, engineers, factory workers, shipping crews, and sellers across several borders.

2 The connections run in more than one direction. Kenya exports coffee beans that can be roasted and sold in Germany. German factories also make medical equipment that Kenyan hospitals can buy. These exchanges support farms, factories, transportation jobs, and health care, although the benefits are not always shared equally. Trade also links countries that do not exchange the same goods directly: a factory making phones may need fuel imported from another country, while its workers spend wages on food grown elsewhere. These overlapping chains help explain why interdependence extends beyond a single product or pair of countries.

3 Suppose shipping delays strike several routes for weeks. Deliveries of phone parts to Vietnam could slow, so fewer finished phones reach Kenyan stores. Coffee shipments from Kenya to Germany could also be delayed, reducing income for growers and supplies for roasters. Other routes may exist, but changing routes costs time and money. This does not mean every country trades with every other country, or that every disruption affects everyone equally. It does show why a problem in one place can spread through connected supply chains, reaching producers and consumers in many countries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Using two stages in the phone's journey, explain why a phone bought in Kenya depends on work beyond Kenya.

2. How do the coffee and medical-equipment examples show that Kenya and Germany can depend on each other in different ways?

3. Connect shipping delays to effects on both the phone and coffee chains. Who could be affected in each chain?

4. Why do the phone, coffee, and medical-equipment examples support a claim about many countries rather than just one trade partnership? Include the passage's limit on that claim.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Suppose a fuel shortage raises shipping costs. In four or five sentences, trace how this change could affect groups in at least two different countries, using two trade connections from the passage, and explain what the effects show about interdependence.

ANSWER KEY

Across the Supply Chain

HIGH SCHOOL · GE.4.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that link different countries, then number two details that show how a change in one place could affect people elsewhere. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Using two stages in the phone's journey, explain why a phone bought in Kenya depends on work beyond Kenya.	**For example, copper may be mined in Chile and parts assembled in Vietnam before the phone reaches a buyer in Kenya.**
2	How do the coffee and medical-equipment examples show that Kenya and Germany can depend on each other in different ways?	**German buyers can purchase Kenyan coffee, while Kenyan hospitals can purchase medical equipment made in Germany.**
3	Connect shipping delays to effects on both the phone and coffee chains. Who could be affected in each chain?	**Delayed parts could slow phone production in Vietnam and leave Kenyan stores with fewer phones. Delayed coffee shipments could reduce Kenyan growers' income and German roasters' supplies.**
4	Why do the phone, coffee, and medical-equipment examples support a claim about many countries rather than just one trade partnership? Include the passage's limit on that claim.	**The examples connect producers and buyers in several countries through different goods and supply chains. They do not show that every country trades with every other country or is affected equally.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If a fuel shortage raises shipping costs, a phone factory in Vietnam may pay more to bring in memory chips from South Korea. The factory might make fewer phones, leaving Kenyan stores with less stock. Kenyan coffee growers could also pay more to ship beans to Germany, where roasters might face higher costs. These effects show how a change in transport costs can reach workers and buyers in several countries.

Accept other accurate links supported by the passage. For Part 3, look for a plausible chain of effects across at least two countries and two trade connections.