# Cocoa Routes, Changing Power

Compare past and present trade routes to assess a colonial legacy.

**GHW.4.1** "Analyze maps and assess ways that colonialism and imperialism have persisted and continue to evolve in the contemporary world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the place labels and routes described for each map. Circle evidence of change, then number two details that suggest a colonial trade pattern may persist.

### Two Maps of Cocoa Trade

1. Imagine two maps of the same cocoa-growing region, more than a century apart. On a map dated 1901, the area is labeled the Gold Coast, a British colony in what is now Ghana. British rule shaped trade, while African farmers grew cocoa on their own farms. An arrow from inland farms to coastal ports, followed by a sea route to Britain, would trace a major export path. British manufacturers could turn imported beans into chocolate for sale. The map would show where the beans traveled, but not how much farmers earned from their work.

2. Now picture a map dated 2025. The country is labeled Ghana, independent since 1957. Arrows still carry cocoa beans from inland farms to ports, including Tema. Other arrows cross the sea toward factories in Europe and Asia. Yet the map also needs arrows pointing to factories within Ghana, where some beans are processed before export. Ghana's government sets the price paid to farmers, while global markets affect export earnings. International companies remain major players in chocolate sales. A route map can reveal trade patterns, but it cannot, by itself, show who has the greatest power over prices or profits.

3. Compare the labels and arrows before deciding what changed. Colonial rule ended, and Ghanaian institutions now make decisions that British officials once controlled. Processing in Ghana has also grown, so it would be wrong to draw every present-day arrow ending at a foreign factory. Still, the long-distance export of beans resembles an older trade pattern: much of the cocoa is grown in Ghana, while much chocolate is made and sold elsewhere. To assess whether imperial influence persists, pair the maps with evidence about pricing and ownership. Similar routes suggest a possible legacy, not proof that today's trade is identical to colonial rule.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What would the 1901 map's label and export arrows show about British colonial trade?

2. Which route would appear on both maps, and what possible colonial legacy does that similarity suggest?

3. What arrows would the 2025 map need so it does not suggest that all cocoa processing happens abroad?

4. Why would similar arrows on the two maps not prove that trade works exactly as it did under colonial rule?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a map dated 2040 in which more Ghanaian factories process cocoa. Describe two arrows you would draw and one place label you would include. Then assess one way this map might show a change in colonial trade patterns and one way it might show a pattern that persists.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · GHW.4.1

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the place labels and routes described for each map. Circle evidence of change, then number two details that suggest a colonial trade pattern may persist. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What would the 1901 map's label and export arrows show about British colonial trade? | **The label would show that the Gold Coast was a British colony. The arrows would show cocoa moving from inland farms through coastal ports to Britain for manufacturing.** |
| 2 | Which route would appear on both maps, and what possible colonial legacy does that similarity suggest? | **Both would show cocoa moving from inland farms to ports and then overseas. This suggests a continuing pattern of exporting cocoa grown in Ghana for use abroad.** |
| 3 | What arrows would the 2025 map need so it does not suggest that all cocoa processing happens abroad? | **It would need arrows pointing to factories within Ghana, where some cocoa beans are processed.** |
| 4 | Why would similar arrows on the two maps not prove that trade works exactly as it did under colonial rule? | **Ghana is independent, and some cocoa is processed there. Routes alone do not show who controls prices or receives profits, so those questions need other evidence.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would label Ghana and draw one arrow from inland cocoa farms to Ghanaian factories. A second arrow would run from those factories to overseas buyers. Processing more beans in Ghana would change the older pattern of sending beans abroad for manufacturing. The overseas arrow would show that Ghana still depends on distant markets. These routes would not tell me how profits are shared.

Accept other plausible 2040 routes if the response identifies a place label, describes two arrows, and distinguishes a change from a possible continuing trade pattern. The future map is hypothetical, so do not treat its routes as established facts.