Economies Around the World

Locate economic systems and trace how decisions are made.

WG.4.10 "Describe and locate on maps the worldwide occurrence of the three major economic systems (traditional, command, and market) and describe the characteristics of each."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each place you could locate on a world map, circle words that show who makes economic decisions, and write T, C, or M beside each paragraph for its main system.

Three Systems, Many Places

1. On a map, the Canadian Arctic lies at the northern edge of North America. In some Inuit communities there, hunting and sharing food still follow knowledge passed through generations, although families also buy supplies and earn wages. Traditional economic practices depend on customs and local relationships to decide what to make, how to make it, and who receives it. Similar practices help some herding communities in East Africa, including parts of Kenya and Tanzania, manage livestock. In northern Scandinavia, some Sámi families also herd reindeer. None of these regions has a purely traditional economy; these activities exist alongside markets and government rules.

2. In a command economy, government planners make major decisions about production and distribution. North Korea sits in East Asia, on the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. Its government controls most large industries, though markets also play a role in daily life. Across the globe, Cuba is an island in the Caribbean, south of Florida. Its government has long directed much of the economy, but private businesses now operate in some sectors. On a world map, these two countries are far apart; their shared feature is strong state direction, not a single climate or continent.

3. In a market economy, buyers and sellers influence what is produced through purchases, prices, and competition. The United States, in North America, relies heavily on private firms and consumer choices. Germany, in central Europe, and Japan, an island country east of the Korean Peninsula, also have strong market systems. A shop in any of these places may change its products when customers want something new. Yet governments still set safety rules, collect taxes, and provide services. No country runs a perfectly pure market economy. To locate economic systems worldwide, look for both the region and the main way decisions are made, not a rigid label.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where would you find the Canadian Arctic on a world map? What guides the traditional practices described there?

2. Locate North Korea by region and peninsula. Who makes most major production decisions there?

3. Where is Japan in relation to the Korean Peninsula? How do buyers and sellers influence production in its market system?

4. Compare the locations of the East African herding communities and the United States. What is one difference in how economic choices are made in the examples described?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence world tour of northern Scandinavia, Cuba, and Germany, in that order. In each of the first three sentences, give the place's map location and describe a different economic system found there; in the fourth, explain why none is a pure example.

ANSWER KEY

Economies Around the World

HIGH SCHOOL · WG.4.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each place you could locate on a world map, circle words that show who makes economic decisions, and write T, C, or M beside each paragraph for its main system. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where would you find the Canadian Arctic on a world map? What guides the traditional practices described there?	**It is at the northern edge of North America. Knowledge passed through generations guides hunting and food sharing.**
2	Locate North Korea by region and peninsula. Who makes most major production decisions there?	**North Korea is in East Asia on the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. Its government directs most large industries.**
3	Where is Japan in relation to the Korean Peninsula? How do buyers and sellers influence production in its market system?	**Japan is east of the Korean Peninsula. Purchases, prices, and competition influence what firms produce.**
4	Compare the locations of the East African herding communities and the United States. What is one difference in how economic choices are made in the examples described?	**The herding communities are in parts of East Africa, including Kenya and Tanzania; the United States is in North America. Customs guide some herding decisions, while private firms and consumer choices strongly influence production in the United States.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Northern Scandinavia is in northern Europe, where some Sámi herders use traditional customs to guide reindeer herding. Cuba is a Caribbean island south of Florida, where government direction is a feature of its command economy. Germany is in central Europe, where private firms respond to buyers and prices in a market economy. None is a pure example because herders also use markets, Cuba allows some private businesses, and Germany has government rules.

Accept equivalent map descriptions and decision-making characteristics supported by the passage. Students should distinguish a region's traditional practices from a claim that its entire economy is traditional.