Chocolate Crosses Borders

Trace how goods, money, and information connect three regions.

WG.4.14 "Use global political, economic, cultural, or social flows to describe and illustrate interdependence between places, countries and regions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number Ghana, the Netherlands, and the United States at their first mention in the order cocoa products travel, then underline two places where a decision or event in one country affects people in another.

The Journey Behind a Chocolate Bar

1. At harvest time in Ghana, cocoa farmers cut open pods and dry the beans inside. Exporters buy the dried beans and ship many of them to processors in the Netherlands. There, machines turn some beans into cocoa butter and cocoa powder. Food companies in the United States buy these ingredients to make chocolate bars and other products. The ingredients may cross more than one border before a shopper buys a bar. This route links farm work in West Africa, factory work in Europe, and food production in North America. Each place depends on work done somewhere else.

2. Money travels in the other direction. If a poor harvest in Ghana reduces the beans available for sale, buyers abroad may have to pay more for cocoa. A U.S. chocolate maker might then raise its prices or use less cocoa in a product. A higher sale price does not guarantee higher income for every farmer: a farmer who harvests fewer beans may earn less overall. Dutch processors also depend on steady shipments to keep their factories running. A weather event on one set of farms can therefore affect jobs, costs, and choices thousands of miles away.

3. Demand can travel across borders, too. When U.S. stores order more chocolate for Valentine's Day, chocolate companies may order more cocoa ingredients from Dutch processors. Those processors can respond by ordering more beans from exporters in Ghana, though existing contracts and stockpiles can delay the effect. Information also moves: buyers may tell exporters what quality standards their factories require, and exporters can pass those requirements to farmers. Farmers decide how to prepare beans for sale, while processors and stores plan around the supplies they expect. These flows do not give every participant equal power, but they tie decisions in different regions together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Trace the cocoa products from Ghana to a U.S. chocolate maker. What work in each country makes the next step possible?

2. How could a poor cocoa harvest in Ghana affect both Dutch processors and U.S. chocolate makers?

3. Trace how more U.S. chocolate orders for Valentine's Day could affect exporters in Ghana. Why might the effect take time?

4. How could a Dutch processor's quality requirements affect work on a farm in Ghana?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Suppose a U.S. chocolate company starts making bars with less cocoa. In four sentences, trace one possible effect in the Netherlands and one in Ghana, then explain why either effect is uncertain.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · WG.4.14

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number Ghana, the Netherlands, and the United States at their first mention in the order cocoa products travel, then underline two places where a decision or event in one country affects people in another. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Trace the cocoa products from Ghana to a U.S. chocolate maker. What work in each country makes the next step possible?	**Farmers in Ghana grow and dry beans. Processors in the Netherlands turn beans into cocoa ingredients, which U.S. companies use to make chocolate.**
2	How could a poor cocoa harvest in Ghana affect both Dutch processors and U.S. chocolate makers?	**Dutch processors could have less reliable shipments, while U.S. makers might pay more for cocoa and raise prices or use less of it.**
3	Trace how more U.S. chocolate orders for Valentine's Day could affect exporters in Ghana. Why might the effect take time?	**U.S. companies may order more ingredients from Dutch processors, who may order more beans from Ghanaian exporters. Contracts and stockpiles can delay new orders.**
4	How could a Dutch processor's quality requirements affect work on a farm in Ghana?	**A buyer can tell an exporter its quality requirements. The exporter can pass them to farmers, who may adjust how they prepare beans for sale.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If a U.S. company makes bars with less cocoa, it may buy less cocoa butter from Dutch processors. Those processors might then order fewer beans from exporters in Ghana. Lower orders could reduce sales for some Ghanaian farmers. The effect is uncertain because Dutch processors could sell their ingredients to other companies.

Accept other supported chains of effects that name the places and explain what moves between them. Students should treat changes in prices, orders, and income as possibilities, not guaranteed outcomes.