Connected Economy Choices

Analyze how global links and technology create benefits, costs, and competition.

11.11c "Globalization and advances in technology have affected the United States economy and society."

NAME ______________________ DATE ____________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two benefits of global connections. Circle two costs or risks. Mark examples linking countries.

The United States in a Connected Economy

1 Globalization connects U.S. producers, consumers, workers, and investors with other countries. A company might design a product in California, buy foreign components, and sell worldwide. Digital communication, container shipping, and online marketplaces make coordination easier. Trade can offer consumers more choices and lower prices while opening markets for businesses. Competition can also pressure firms to change production and employment. Benefits and costs are distributed unevenly.

2 Multinational corporations control operations in multiple countries. An overseas factory can create jobs, transfer skills, and buy local services while earning profits for the company. Decisions about wages, working conditions, and pollution can affect communities far from headquarters. Moving a U.S. plant abroad may eliminate local jobs even if consumers pay less. Automation can also displace work, so every factory closure should not automatically be attributed to foreign trade. Workers, consumers, investors, and governments may judge the same decision differently.

3 U.S.-China relations illustrate economic ties alongside strategic rivalry. In the early 2020s, the countries traded substantial amounts of goods and services while competing over advanced technology and security. U.S. tariffs addressed trade disputes; export controls restricted access to certain technologies on national-security grounds. Such policies could protect particular interests but also increase costs or disrupt supply chains. Companies had to consider both market opportunities and political risks. Trade connections did not eliminate rivalry, and rivalry did not end all exchange.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can communication technology, shipping, and online marketplaces help businesses trade globally?

2. State one benefit of globalization for consumers and one challenge it can create for U.S. firms or workers.

3. How can a multinational corporation affect both the United States and another country when it builds a factory abroad?

4. Why does the passage describe China as both a trading partner and a strategic rival of the United States?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In exactly three sentences, explain how a fictional U.S. company could use globalization and technology to sell a product. Include one benefit, one possible cost or risk, and the role of a technology in the company's plan.

Connected Economy Choices

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two benefits of global connections. Circle two costs or risks. Mark examples linking countries. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can communication technology, shipping, and online marketplaces help businesses trade globally?	**They make coordination easier, helping firms buy foreign components and sell products in worldwide markets.**
2	State one benefit of globalization for consumers and one challenge it can create for U.S. firms or workers.	**Consumers may have more choices and lower prices. U.S. firms may face pressure to cut costs or move production, which can change or reduce jobs at home.**
3	How can a multinational corporation affect both the United States and another country when it builds a factory abroad?	**It may create jobs, transfer skills, and buy local services abroad while earning profits for its headquarters and giving U.S. investors access to overseas growth. Its decisions can also affect wages, working conditions, environmental practices, and U.S. jobs.**
4	Why does the passage describe China as both a trading partner and a strategic rival of the United States?	**The countries exchanged substantial goods and services while competing over technology and security. U.S. tariffs and export controls reflected trade disputes and national-security concerns.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A U.S. bicycle company could order battery cells from South Korea and sell its bikes through an online store to customers in several countries. This arrangement could lower production costs and create new markets, but a shipping delay or foreign policy dispute could interrupt supplies and raise prices. Digital ordering and tracking technology would help the company coordinate the global supply chain.

Accept accurate explanations of uneven benefits and costs. In the three-sentence response as a whole, look for a benefit, a possible risk, and a plausible role for technology; each sentence need not include all three.