Cargo Connects Regions

How a water route helps people buy, sell, and work

4.C.4.3.A "Explain how transportation routes connect economic regions and support economic growth (e.g., St. Lawrence Seaway, Transcontinental Railroad, Route 66, Interstate Highway System)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the names of the two regions the seaway connects. Circle two ways this connection helps people earn money.

A Ship's Trip Through the Seaway

1. Picture a ship loading wheat at a port on Lake Erie. The wheat came from farms in the Great Lakes region. The St. Lawrence Seaway links the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean through waterways and locks. Locks lift or lower ships between sections of water. This route connects inland farms and lake ports with ports in the Atlantic coast region, where ships can reach more buyers.

2. The wheat ship travels east toward a port in the Atlantic coast region. There, wheat can be sold to more buyers. Farmers gain more customers, and workers at lake ports and ocean ports help load and unload cargo. Ships also travel west, carrying goods such as coffee from ocean ports toward stores in the Great Lakes region. The route lets people in both regions buy and sell goods.

3. A water route can carry heavy loads in one trip, so moving some goods by ship can cost less than sending them only by truck. Lower shipping costs may help businesses sell goods at prices more people can pay. As sales grow, farms, shipping companies, and stores may need more workers. If the seaway closes, shipments must wait or take another route, which can raise costs for businesses in both regions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the seaway help wheat farmers in the Great Lakes region reach more buyers?

2. How does a westbound shipment connect ocean ports with stores in the Great Lakes region?

3. How could carrying heavy loads by ship help businesses grow?

4. If the seaway closed, why might businesses in both regions face higher costs?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a product not named in the passage. In three sentences, describe how it could travel on the seaway between the two regions and how that trade could help workers or businesses in each region.

ANSWER KEY

Cargo Connects Regions

GRADE 4 · 4.C.4.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the names of the two regions the seaway connects. Circle two ways this connection helps people earn money. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the seaway help wheat farmers in the Great Lakes region reach more buyers?	**It gives ships a route from Great Lakes ports toward Atlantic coast ports, where the wheat can be sold to more buyers.**
2	How does a westbound shipment connect ocean ports with stores in the Great Lakes region?	**Ships can carry goods from ocean ports toward Great Lakes stores, where people can buy them.**
3	How could carrying heavy loads by ship help businesses grow?	**Shipping may cost less, allowing businesses to sell at lower prices. More sales may lead them to hire more workers.**
4	If the seaway closed, why might businesses in both regions face higher costs?	**Shipments would have to wait or take another route, which could raise shipping costs in both regions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A ship could carry furniture made near the Great Lakes through the St. Lawrence Seaway to a port in the Atlantic coast region. Workers near the lakes could earn money making and loading the furniture. Stores near the Atlantic could sell it, helping their businesses grow and giving workers jobs.

Accept other accurate ways the route connects the regions and supports trade or jobs. For Your Turn, the product must not be wheat or coffee, and the response must explain a benefit in each region.