Goods on the Move

Why countries buy and sell goods

4.C.4.3.B "Describe reasons why people and nations trade, providing examples of major imports and exports produced and consumed by Americans."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons people or countries trade, circle two goods the United States imports, and put a box around two goods it exports.

From Farms to Shelves

1 At a grocery store in the United States, you might see bananas from Ecuador beside apples grown in Washington State. Bananas grow best in warm places, so many Americans buy bananas brought in from other countries. Goods brought into a country are called imports. Americans also import coffee beans from Brazil. Most places in the United States are not warm enough to grow large amounts of either crop.

2 Trade also moves goods out of the United States. Farmers here grow more wheat and soybeans than Americans buy. Mexico buys some wheat grown in the United States to make foods such as bread. Japan buys some U.S. soybeans to feed farm animals. Goods sold to another country are exports. These sales give U.S. farmers customers beyond their own country and help them earn money.

3 A trade deal begins with a need and a choice. A country may buy crops it cannot easily grow, or buy goods another country can produce in large amounts. A country may sell the extra goods its workers make. Shipping goods costs money, but trade can offer people more choices and give producers more buyers. When a shopper buys Brazilian coffee, both the buyer and a coffee grower take part in this exchange.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why do Americans import bananas from Ecuador instead of growing all their bananas at home?

2. Why does Mexico buy U.S. wheat, and what is that wheat called when it leaves the United States?

3. Why does Japan buy U.S. soybeans, and how does the sale help U.S. farmers?

4. How can importing Brazilian coffee help American shoppers and coffee growers in Brazil?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a U.S. town has extra almonds and a shop in Ghana wants almonds, while U.S. bakers want cocoa beans grown in Ghana. Write three or four sentences naming the U.S. import and export and explaining why each side would want to trade.

ANSWER KEY

Goods on the Move

GRADE 4 · 4.C.4.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons people or countries trade, circle two goods the United States imports, and put a box around two goods it exports. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why do Americans import bananas from Ecuador instead of growing all their bananas at home?	**Bananas grow best in warm places, and most U.S. places are not warm enough to grow large amounts.**
2	Why does Mexico buy U.S. wheat, and what is that wheat called when it leaves the United States?	**Mexico buys the wheat to make foods such as bread. The wheat is a U.S. export.**
3	Why does Japan buy U.S. soybeans, and how does the sale help U.S. farmers?	**Japan buys soybeans to feed farm animals. The sale gives U.S. farmers more customers and helps them earn money.**
4	How can importing Brazilian coffee help American shoppers and coffee growers in Brazil?	**American shoppers have more choices, and Brazilian coffee growers gain buyers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States could export extra almonds to Ghana because the shop there wants to sell them. The United States could import cocoa beans from Ghana because U.S. bakers want them. This trade gives almond growers and cocoa growers buyers for their crops.

Accept answers that correctly identify goods entering the United States as imports and goods leaving it as exports. Reasons should connect to a need, extra goods, more choices, or more buyers.