The Shared Crossing

How taxes help care for a bridge everyone can use

5.C.6.5.E "why payment of taxes is required to support projects for the common good"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two kinds of travelers who use the bridge, and circle two details showing why required taxes help the town care for it.

Keeping the Bridge Safe

1. Each morning, a school bus crosses the Mill Street bridge. The same bridge carries delivery trucks and an ambulance when it needs the quickest route across the creek. After a winter storm, workers find loose boards on its walkway and cracks in the road. Repairing the bridge will cost more than one family could pay. Leaving it damaged could make travel unsafe for many people.

2. The town collects taxes from people and businesses under local rules. Town leaders use some of that money to hire trained workers and buy materials for the bridge repair. Taxes are required, not optional gifts, so the town can plan for repairs even when few people feel like donating. People may use the bridge often, rarely, or not at all, but a safe route helps the whole community.

3. Taxes also help pay for regular bridge checks before small problems grow. If only bridge users paid at the crossing, a bus might face delays and an ambulance could lose time. A shared tax fund lets the town keep the bridge open without stopping each traveler to collect money. Residents can ask leaders how tax money is spent, while the required payments make the shared work possible.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is repairing the bridge a project for the whole community rather than just one family?

2. Why does the town require taxes instead of relying only on gifts to pay for repairs?

3. How do taxes help the town care for the bridge before a major repair is needed?

4. Why might paying taxes work better than charging each traveler at the bridge?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a public project not named in the passage. In three sentences, tell who benefits, why its cost should be shared, and why required taxes work better than optional gifts.

ANSWER KEY

The Shared Crossing

GRADE 5 · 5.C.6.5.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two kinds of travelers who use the bridge, and circle two details showing why required taxes help the town care for it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is repairing the bridge a project for the whole community rather than just one family?	**Many people use the bridge, and a damaged bridge could make travel unsafe for them. The repair also costs more than one family could pay.**
2	Why does the town require taxes instead of relying only on gifts to pay for repairs?	**Required taxes let the town plan for repairs even when few people choose to donate.**
3	How do taxes help the town care for the bridge before a major repair is needed?	**Taxes pay for regular checks that can find small problems before they grow.**
4	Why might paying taxes work better than charging each traveler at the bridge?	**Collecting money from each traveler could delay buses and ambulances. A shared tax fund lets travelers cross without stopping to pay.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A public playground gives children from many families a place to play. Building and caring for it costs money, so the families who share it should also share the cost. Required taxes provide steady money for repairs even when people do not choose to donate.

Accept other passage-supported reasons that connect required taxes to a shared benefit. For the open task, look for a project not named in the passage and an explanation of why dependable, shared funding matters.