When Stability Shifts

How past instability shapes challenges today

6.C.5.1.E "Describe challenges for several Latin American governments and economies, due to a history of political and economic instability."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one past political or economic problem in each paragraph, then circle a challenge it creates for people or governments today. Number each underlined problem and its connected challenge with the same number.

Three Countries, Connected Challenges

1. In Haiti, a family may wonder whether a school will stay open when roads are blocked by violence. Haiti has faced repeated changes in leadership, including coups, in which leaders were forced out of office. These breaks in government made it hard to carry out long-term plans for schools, roads, and public safety. Poverty and disasters added to the strain, while political uncertainty discouraged some businesses from investing. Today, officials face the linked tasks of restoring security, keeping basic services running, and creating steady jobs.

2. At an Argentine grocery store, a price tag can change quickly when inflation is high. Over many decades, Argentina has faced repeated economic crises, large government debts, and periods of rapid inflation. When prices rise faster than wages, families can afford less food and other goods. Businesses struggle to plan what to charge or pay workers. Governments must decide how to control inflation and manage debt while still paying for public services. Political disagreements over these choices can make it harder to keep an economic plan in place.

3. In Venezuela, oil has long brought in much of the money the country earns from selling goods abroad. That dependence became a problem when oil prices fell and oil production declined. Years of economic trouble, including severe inflation, made food and medicine harder for many families to buy. Political conflict and disputed elections have also weakened trust in leaders and public institutions. The government faces two connected challenges: repairing an economy that relies heavily on oil and rebuilding public trust so people can agree on lasting solutions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How have past changes in Haiti's leadership made a current government challenge harder?

2. How does Argentina's history of inflation create challenges for families and the government?

3. How have both oil dependence and political conflict created challenges for Venezuela's leaders?

4. How do different kinds of instability make it difficult for governments in Haiti and Argentina to plan ahead?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise leaders in two countries from the passage. In four sentences, propose one action for each country and explain how its history of instability could make each action difficult.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · 6.C.5.1.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one past political or economic problem in each paragraph, then circle a challenge it creates for people or governments today. Number each underlined problem and its connected challenge with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How have past changes in Haiti's leadership made a current government challenge harder?	**Coups and other changes in leadership interrupted long-term plans, making it harder to provide schools, roads, and public safety.**
2	How does Argentina's history of inflation create challenges for families and the government?	**When prices rise faster than wages, families can buy less. The government must control inflation while paying for public services.**
3	How have both oil dependence and political conflict created challenges for Venezuela's leaders?	**Falling oil prices and production hurt the economy, while political conflict weakened public trust. Leaders must address both problems.**
4	How do different kinds of instability make it difficult for governments in Haiti and Argentina to plan ahead?	**Changes in Haiti's leadership have interrupted long-term plans for services. Argentina's inflation, debt, and political disagreements make it hard to keep an economic plan in place.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Haiti, I would fund road repairs so students and workers can travel more easily. Past coups and political uncertainty could interrupt the long-term funding these repairs need. In Argentina, I would make a plan to manage debt while protecting money for public services. Past debt crises and rapid inflation could make that plan hard to keep when costs rise.

Accept other accurate links between past instability and present challenges stated in the passage. For Part 3, each proposed action should address a challenge in its country, and each explanation should name a relevant obstacle from that country's history.