Three Fishing Towns

Compare economic choices and their effects

6.C.6 "Analyze economic systems of the world and how they impact the development of a nation and region. Explain how people organize economic systems to address basic economic questions regarding which goods and services will be produced..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail for each town showing who decides what to produce or who receives it. Circle the grain tax policy, then write 1 beside a benefit of the command system and 2 beside a limitation.

Who Gets the Catch?

1. Imagine three coastal towns with the same problem: how to get fish to families. In Cedar Cove, fishing families follow customs passed down over generations. They catch familiar kinds of fish and share the catch with relatives and neighbors. This traditional system protects local knowledge, but customs may be slow to change when fish move away. In Market Bay, boat owners decide what to catch by watching what buyers will pay. Shoppers who can afford the price buy the fish, while some families may struggle to pay.

2. In Harbor Point, government officials choose how many fishing boats to build and assign crews to catch fish. They set prices and distribute fish through local stores. This command system can direct food toward families in need, but a plan may produce too much of one kind and too little of another. All three towns trade with inland farms for grain. If Harbor Point's government raises a tax on imported grain, imported grain costs more. Local grain growers may sell more, but families may pay more for food.

3. Fishing belongs to the primary sector because workers harvest a natural product. A factory that cans the fish belongs to the secondary sector because it makes a product. Truck drivers who deliver the cans provide a tertiary service. Researchers who design longer-lasting food packaging work in the quaternary sector. Together, these jobs can raise incomes and help a region develop. Yet higher income alone does not prove that everyone shares the gains or has freedom to choose a job or business.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Cedar Cove and Market Bay differ in deciding what fish to catch and who gets the fish?

2. If Harbor Point raises the tax on imported grain, how might local grain growers and families be affected?

3. What is one benefit and one limitation of Harbor Point's command system?

4. How can truck drivers and packaging researchers help the region develop? Why might higher incomes not benefit everyone?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A new mountain town grows mushrooms and trades with a nearby city. In five or six sentences, choose a traditional, market, or command system, explain who decides what to grow and who gets it, propose one trade policy, and predict one benefit and one limitation for the town.

ANSWER KEY

Three Fishing Towns

GRADE 6 · 6.C.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail for each town showing who decides what to produce or who receives it. Circle the grain tax policy, then write 1 beside a benefit of the command system and 2 beside a limitation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Cedar Cove and Market Bay differ in deciding what fish to catch and who gets the fish?	**Cedar Cove follows customs, catching familiar fish and sharing them with relatives and neighbors. Market Bay's boat owners follow buyers' prices, and shoppers who can afford the fish buy it.**
2	If Harbor Point raises the tax on imported grain, how might local grain growers and families be affected?	**Local grain growers may sell more, but families may pay more for food because imported grain costs more.**
3	What is one benefit and one limitation of Harbor Point's command system?	**It can direct food toward families in need, but its plan may produce too much of one kind of fish and too little of another.**
4	How can truck drivers and packaging researchers help the region develop? Why might higher incomes not benefit everyone?	**Truck drivers deliver canned fish, and researchers improve food packaging. These jobs can raise incomes, but the gains may not be shared by everyone.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would choose a market system for the mountain town. Growers would decide how many mushrooms to grow based on what buyers want. People in the town and city could buy mushrooms if they can afford the price. The town council would charge a low fee on mushroom shipments to the city. Easier trade could bring growers higher incomes. However, strong demand could raise prices, leaving some local families unable to afford mushrooms.

Accept other supported benefits and limitations that fit the passage. For Part 3, accept any of the three systems if the decision-making, distribution, trade policy, and predicted effects are consistent with the student's choice.