Trade Across Borders

How regional cooperation connects workers, businesses, and buyers

6.C.7.5.A "Describe how the people of different regions cooperate to address common concerns and how such cooperation impacts global interdependence (e.g., the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, Mercosur)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one way each group cooperates in the passage. Circle one effect of each group's cooperation on people in another country.

Working Together to Trade

1. A car can cross borders before anyone drives it. A part made in Mexico might join other parts in the United States, while a Canadian factory adds more work. The United States, Mexico, and Canada cooperate through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA. This trade agreement sets shared rules for goods moving among the three countries. Its rules for cars encourage the use of parts made within North America. Businesses can plan around those rules, and workers in all three countries may depend on the same chain of production.

2. In South America, countries also work together on trade. Brazil and Argentina belong to Mercosur, a regional group that aims to make trade among members easier. Members reduce many trade barriers, such as taxes charged on goods crossing borders. This helps a Brazilian company sell a machine to a buyer in Argentina, for example. It can also help the buyer find equipment for a factory. As goods move across borders, sellers gain customers and buyers gain choices. Both sides have a reason to keep trade routes working.

3. These agreements connect decisions made in one place to people elsewhere. If a car part is delayed at one border, workers at another factory may have to wait. If a trade rule changes, a company in a neighboring country may need to change its plans. Countries cooperate because they share concerns about reliable trade and jobs. The agreements do not end every disagreement, but shared rules give countries a way to work through trade problems. More trade can create opportunities, yet it also means people rely on partners beyond their own borders.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the USMCA help the three countries cooperate on car production, and how can workers be affected?

2. How do Mercosur members make trade easier, and how can this help both a seller and a buyer?

3. What concern do the countries in both groups share, and how does their cooperation affect people beyond their own borders?

4. How could a delay at one border affect workers in another country? What does this show about countries' dependence on one another?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Two neighboring countries share a fishing area, but plastic trash is harming fish. In four sentences, propose two actions they could take together, explain one benefit to people in both countries, and explain one way each country would depend on the other.

ANSWER KEY

Trade Across Borders

GRADE 6 · 6.C.7.5.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one way each group cooperates in the passage. Circle one effect of each group's cooperation on people in another country. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the USMCA help the three countries cooperate on car production, and how can workers be affected?	**The USMCA sets shared trade rules that encourage North American car parts. Workers in the three countries may depend on the same production chain.**
2	How do Mercosur members make trade easier, and how can this help both a seller and a buyer?	**Members reduce many trade barriers. A Brazilian seller can gain a customer in Argentina, while the buyer can get equipment for a factory.**
3	What concern do the countries in both groups share, and how does their cooperation affect people beyond their own borders?	**They share concerns about reliable trade and jobs. Their cooperation connects workers, businesses, and buyers across borders.**
4	How could a delay at one border affect workers in another country? What does this show about countries' dependence on one another?	**A delayed car part could make workers at another factory wait. This shows that people in one country may rely on goods arriving from another.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The countries could set the same rules to stop plastic waste from reaching the water. They could also send teams to count trash and clean the shore together. Cleaner water could protect fish and support fishing jobs in both countries. Each country would depend on the other to follow the rules, because trash from either side could drift into the shared fishing area.

Accept other passage-supported effects of trade cooperation. For Your Turn, look for two joint actions, a benefit to both countries, and a clear explanation of why each must rely on the other.