Across Borders

How shared concerns lead countries to cooperate

6.C.7.5 "Explain reasons for cooperation among nations of the Western Hemisphere. Describe how the people of different regions cooperate to address common concerns and how such cooperation impacts global interdependence (e.g...."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two concerns that cross borders, circle the four named agreements or organizations, and number three ways cooperation helps people. Use your marks to explain why countries work together.

Neighbors, Trade, and Shared Waters

1. Smoke does not stop at a border. When wildfires burn near the border between Canada and the United States, smoke can affect families in both countries. Sharing air-quality readings helps people decide when to stay indoors, and firefighters can exchange information about where a fire is moving. The Organization of American States (OAS) gives countries across the Americas a place to discuss shared problems, including disaster risks, and work together. Its members also discuss democracy and human rights. Talking together does not erase borders, but it can help neighbors act sooner.

2. Trade also links neighbors. Under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the three countries follow shared rules for much of their trade. A car part made in Mexico might go to a factory in the United States, while the finished car is sold in Canada. In South America, Mercosur helps member countries trade by reducing some trade barriers. These arrangements can help businesses reach more buyers and workers find markets for what they make. They also mean that a factory slowdown in one country can affect stores and jobs in another.

3. Farther north, changes in Arctic sea ice affect animals, travel, and the people who live there. The Arctic Council brings Arctic governments and Indigenous representatives together to share research and plan ways to protect the region. It focuses on issues such as the environment, not military defense. Some of its members are outside the Western Hemisphere, so its work reaches beyond the Americas. When countries share findings about melting ice, other regions can use that knowledge too. This is global interdependence: choices and discoveries in one region matter to people elsewhere.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might countries discuss wildfire risks through the OAS? How could that cooperation help families?

2. How does the car example show why the USMCA countries cooperate on trade?

3. How does Mercosur help create an economic region? Why might a slowdown in one member country matter to another?

4. How does the Arctic Council's work reach beyond the Western Hemisphere? What could people elsewhere gain from that work?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two countries in the Americas share a river used for drinking water. In four sentences, explain why they should cooperate, propose an action they could take, name an organization from the passage that could help them talk, and describe one possible effect beyond those two countries.

ANSWER KEY

Across Borders

GRADE 6 · 6.C.7.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two concerns that cross borders, circle the four named agreements or organizations, and number three ways cooperation helps people. Use your marks to explain why countries work together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might countries discuss wildfire risks through the OAS? How could that cooperation help families?	**Wildfire smoke can affect families across borders. The OAS offers a place to discuss shared disaster risks, which could help countries act sooner.**
2	How does the car example show why the USMCA countries cooperate on trade?	**A car part can be made in Mexico, sent to a U.S. factory, and sold as part of a finished car in Canada. Shared trade rules help the countries take part in that process.**
3	How does Mercosur help create an economic region? Why might a slowdown in one member country matter to another?	**Mercosur reduces some trade barriers among member countries. Because their businesses trade with one another, a factory slowdown in one country can affect stores and jobs in another.**
4	How does the Arctic Council's work reach beyond the Western Hemisphere? What could people elsewhere gain from that work?	**Some Arctic Council members are outside the Western Hemisphere. People in other regions can use research its members share about melting ice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States and Mexico should cooperate because pollution in the Rio Grande can affect people on both sides of their border. They could test the water together and agree on ways to keep waste out of the river. The OAS could give them a place to discuss their plan. Less pollution flowing into the Gulf of Mexico could also benefit people in other countries along the gulf.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of how each group helps countries cooperate. For Part 3, accept a plausible shared-river plan that includes all four requested elements; the organization need not carry out the water testing itself.