Cocoa Connections

How phones and trade connect farmers, companies, and shoppers

6.P.2.4.C "Explain how technology and trade impact standard of living and economic interdependence, using historical or contemporary examples."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In Part 1, underline a detail showing how phones can affect farmers' income, circle a detail showing how trade can affect daily life, and write 1 and 2 beside two details that show people in different countries depending on each other.

From Cocoa Farm to Chocolate Bar

1 In Ghana, many farmers grow cocoa, the crop used to make chocolate. Buyers collect the dried cocoa beans and sell them to companies in other countries. Those companies turn the beans into chocolate for stores. The money from cocoa sales can help farming families pay for food, school supplies, and repairs to their homes. This trade also gives chocolate companies a supply of beans and gives shoppers more products to choose from. A chocolate bar can link the work and needs of people in several countries.

2 A phone can change how a cocoa farmer does business. In some areas, farmers use mobile phones to check current cocoa prices and talk with buyers before selling. Knowing a price helps a farmer judge an offer, although it does not guarantee a higher payment. Phones can also carry weather reports, which help farmers decide when to dry harvested beans. Better planning may reduce spoiled beans and protect income. To use these tools, farmers need phone service, electricity to charge phones, and enough money for service.

3 Trade and technology create connections, but they also create risks. If a poor harvest reduces Ghana's cocoa supply, companies that buy its beans may need another source or make less chocolate. Ghanaian farmers may earn less, which can make it harder to pay for daily needs. A company might send fewer orders if demand for chocolate falls, leaving farmers with fewer chances to sell. Phones cannot stop a drought or force buyers to pay more. These examples show why people in different places can depend on one another without sharing the same benefits.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could using a phone to check cocoa prices affect a farmer's income?

2. How can cocoa trade affect daily life for farming families and for shoppers in other countries?

3. If Ghana has a poor cocoa harvest, how could that affect both farmers and companies that buy their beans?

4. Why might a phone not protect a cocoa farmer's income when chocolate sales fall?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In Part 3, imagine a fishing town that sells fish to restaurants in another country. The town gets a new freezer that keeps fish fresh longer. In 3 or 4 sentences, explain how the freezer and trade could affect daily life in both places, how the places depend on each other, and one risk if restaurant orders stop.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · 6.P.2.4.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In Part 1, underline a detail showing how phones can affect farmers' income, circle a detail showing how trade can affect daily life, and write 1 and 2 beside two details that show people in different countries depending on each other. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could using a phone to check cocoa prices affect a farmer's income?	**It could help the farmer judge a buyer's offer before selling, but it does not guarantee a higher payment.**
2	How can cocoa trade affect daily life for farming families and for shoppers in other countries?	**Cocoa sales can help farming families pay for needs such as food and school supplies. The trade gives shoppers more products to choose from.**
3	If Ghana has a poor cocoa harvest, how could that affect both farmers and companies that buy their beans?	**Farmers may earn less and struggle to pay for daily needs. Companies may need another source of beans or make less chocolate.**
4	Why might a phone not protect a cocoa farmer's income when chocolate sales fall?	**If companies send fewer orders, farmers have fewer chances to sell. A phone cannot make buyers place more orders.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The freezer could keep more fish fresh for the trip, so fishers might sell more to the restaurants. More sales could help fishing families pay for food and housing, while the restaurants could serve customers more fish. The fishers depend on restaurant orders, and the restaurants depend on the town's fish supply. If orders stop, fishing families could lose income even though they have a freezer.

Accept other passage-supported effects on income, daily life, or dependence. For Part 3, look for a plausible effect of the freezer, a benefit in both places, a two-way connection, and a risk from lost orders.