Bread and Choices

Compare economic decisions, data, and trade

6.P.2.4 "Identify the principles of economic systems and develop an understanding of the benefits of a market system in local, national, and global settings. Analyze, interpret, and compare economic data from multiple charts and graphs..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the three economic systems, underline one benefit and one drawback of an economic choice, and number the towns in the table from most to fewest bread varieties.

Three Towns, Three Ways to Sell Bread

1 Imagine three towns that sell bread. In Harbor, a market system lets bakers choose recipes and prices, while customers choose what to buy. In Ridge, a command system has leaders decide bread amounts and prices. In Cove, a mixed system lets bakers choose recipes, while leaders set food safety rules.

BREAD SALES IN THREE IMAGINARY TOWNS, ONE DAY

Town	System	Bread varieties sold	Loaves sold
Harbor	Market	6	120
Ridge	Command	2	100
Cove	Mixed	4	110

2 The table shows made-up data for one day in these towns. A market can offer customers more choices when bakers compete for sales. A command system can direct workers to make needed goods, but leaders may miss what shoppers want. Mixed systems can combine private choices with public rules. The table alone cannot prove which system gives people a better life.

3 Technology and trade can change each town's options. A faster oven can help a bakery make more bread with the same number of workers. If Harbor buys wheat from farmers in another country, its bakers can work even when local crops fail. Those farmers gain customers, but Harbor may face shortages if shipping stops. This connection is economic interdependence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Harbor and Ridge differ in bread varieties sold? Explain how their systems might help account for the difference.

2. How many more loaves did Cove sell than Ridge? Name one possible benefit of Cove's mixed system.

3. What is one benefit and one risk for Harbor when it buys wheat from another country?

4. Does the table prove that people in Harbor have a better life than people in Ridge? Explain using one fact the table does not show.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In four sentences, recommend a market, command, or mixed system for a new town called Mill. Use one table comparison, describe one advantage and one disadvantage of your choice, and explain one benefit and one risk of buying wheat from another country.

ANSWER KEY

Bread and Choices

GRADE 6 · 6.P.2.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the three economic systems, underline one benefit and one drawback of an economic choice, and number the towns in the table from most to fewest bread varieties. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Harbor and Ridge differ in bread varieties sold? Explain how their systems might help account for the difference.	**Harbor sold 6 varieties, while Ridge sold 2. Harbor's bakers choose recipes, while Ridge's leaders make production decisions.**
2	How many more loaves did Cove sell than Ridge? Name one possible benefit of Cove's mixed system.	**Cove sold 10 more loaves. Its food safety rules can help protect buyers while bakers choose recipes.**
3	What is one benefit and one risk for Harbor when it buys wheat from another country?	**Imported wheat can keep Harbor's bakers working when local crops fail. Harbor may face a wheat shortage if shipping stops.**
4	Does the table prove that people in Harbor have a better life than people in Ridge? Explain using one fact the table does not show.	**No. The table does not show facts such as bread prices or residents' incomes, so it cannot establish which town has a higher standard of living.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend a mixed system for Mill because Cove sold 110 loaves, compared with Ridge's 100, although the table does not prove the system caused the difference. Bakers could choose recipes, and food safety rules could protect buyers, but rules might raise costs. Buying wheat from another country could keep Mill's ovens running when local crops fail. If shipping stops, Mill could run short of wheat.

Accept other supported recommendations that use an accurate table comparison. Students should treat the made-up data as evidence for comparison, not proof that a system caused a result.