When Routes Change

How transportation affects access to everyday goods

7.C.4.3.B "Describe the importance of transportation infrastructure and its direct impact on people's access to resources and consumer goods."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline transportation routes and structures, circle goods and supplies, and draw an arrow from one underlined item to a sentence that shows how it affects access.

The Crossing at Pine Bend

1. At Pine Bend, a river separates homes and a clinic from a food warehouse and a medical supply center. A two-lane bridge joins the town's main road to the highway on the other bank. Each morning, delivery trucks cross the bridge with milk, rice, and medicine for local stores and the clinic. Farmers also use the road to carry vegetables to a market across the river. The bridge does more than shorten a trip: it gives drivers a reliable way to move supplies between places where they are stored, sold, and used.

2. One spring, inspectors close the bridge for repairs after finding damage to its supports. Trucks can still reach Pine Bend, but they must take a road around the river to the next safe crossing. That route adds an hour to each delivery. A grocery owner orders extra milk to avoid empty shelves, yet fresh vegetables arrive later and may spoil sooner. The clinic asks for medicine deliveries earlier than usual so patients do not run out. The bridge closure changes when people can get goods, even though the goods still exist.

3. While repairs continue, the town adds a scheduled ferry that can carry small trucks across the river. The ferry cannot hold as much as the bridge could handle in a day, and rough weather sometimes stops trips. Store owners give priority to foods that spoil quickly, while heavier goods travel by the longer road. Some families without cars depend on a bus that now takes the detour, making shopping trips across the river harder to fit into a workday. Roads, bridges, ferries, and buses shape who can reach supplies and how soon.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is the bridge important to Pine Bend's stores and clinic?

2. How does the longer road affect the town's access to fresh vegetables?

3. How do the ferry and the longer road each help stores get goods during the bridge closure?

4. How does the bus detour affect some families' access to goods across the river?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A mountain town's only road tunnel closes, but a train still connects the town to a nearby city. In four or five sentences, explain how the closure could affect access to groceries and building materials, then describe one step the town could take to help people get those goods.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 7 · 7.C.4.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline transportation routes and structures, circle goods and supplies, and draw an arrow from one underlined item to a sentence that shows how it affects access. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the bridge important to Pine Bend's stores and clinic?	**It lets trucks bring milk and rice to stores and medicine to the clinic from across the river.**
2	How does the longer road affect the town's access to fresh vegetables?	**It adds an hour to deliveries, so vegetables arrive later and may spoil sooner.**
3	How do the ferry and the longer road each help stores get goods during the bridge closure?	**The ferry carries small trucks, so stores give priority to foods that spoil quickly. Heavier goods travel by the longer road.**
4	How does the bus detour affect some families' access to goods across the river?	**It makes shopping trips across the river harder for families without cars to fit into a workday.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

With the tunnel closed, trucks cannot use their usual route to bring groceries and building materials into town. The train could bring supplies from the nearby city, but stores would need a way to move them from the station. The town could arrange for local trucks to pick up train shipments and deliver them to shops. This would help families buy groceries and builders get materials while the tunnel is closed. Train schedules could still affect when those goods arrive.

Accept other passage-based explanations that connect a route or structure to people's ability to get goods. For the open task, look for a plausible effect on both types of goods and a step that explains how access would improve.