The Glove Question

Three towns, three ways to meet a need

7.C.7.1 "Explain how people organize economic systems to address basic economic questions regarding which goods and services will be produced, how they will be distributed, and who will consume them."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each town's paragraph, circle a decision about which gloves to supply, underline how gloves reach people, and box the words that tell who can get them.

Gloves for a Cold Snap

1. A cold snap reaches three nearby towns, and each needs warm gloves. In Bayport, shops decide how many pairs to stock by watching what customers buy and what gloves cost to make. One shop orders more waterproof pairs after hikers buy out its first shipment. Sellers offer gloves in their stores, and customers choose among them. Prices help decide who gets the limited supply: people willing and able to pay can buy a pair. This market-based approach can leave some neighbors without gloves when prices rise.

2. In Millhaven, town leaders control the glove supply for this emergency. They direct a town-owned factory to make 600 pairs of sturdy work gloves rather than fashion gloves because road crews must clear ice. Officials send the gloves to three pickup sites and give each road worker a ticket for one pair. Any pairs left over go to residents who registered as having no winter gloves. Government decisions determine what is made, how gloves reach people, and who receives them. This government-directed approach can meet urgent needs, but officials may misjudge demand.

3. In Cedar Glen, stores still choose what gloves to stock, but the town council adds a public program. The council buys 200 plain pairs from a local maker and sends them to the school gym. Families below an income limit can collect one free pair per child there. Everyone else can purchase gloves at shops, where sellers set prices and buyers choose what to buy. This mixed approach uses both private choices and public rules. It gives some families another way to get gloves while leaving most sales to stores.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In Bayport, what led one shop to stock more waterproof gloves, and who can buy gloves from the shops?

2. Why does Millhaven make work gloves instead of fashion gloves? Explain how the town gets the gloves to the people it chooses to serve.

3. How do both stores and the town council shape which gloves are available and who gets them in Cedar Glen?

4. How does a family's ability to pay affect getting gloves in Bayport compared with Cedar Glen?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A fourth town loses access to its school kitchen for a week. In four sentences, design a mixed system for providing lunches: explain which meals will be made, how they will reach students, who will get them, and what private sellers and the town government each decide.

ANSWER KEY

The Glove Question

GRADE 7 · 7.C.7.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each town's paragraph, circle a decision about which gloves to supply, underline how gloves reach people, and box the words that tell who can get them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In Bayport, what led one shop to stock more waterproof gloves, and who can buy gloves from the shops?	**Hikers bought out the first shipment, so the shop ordered more. People willing and able to pay can buy gloves.**
2	Why does Millhaven make work gloves instead of fashion gloves? Explain how the town gets the gloves to the people it chooses to serve.	**Road crews need work gloves to clear ice. Officials send gloves to pickup sites and give each road worker a ticket for a pair. Leftover pairs go to residents who registered as having no winter gloves.**
3	How do both stores and the town council shape which gloves are available and who gets them in Cedar Glen?	**Stores choose what to stock and sell gloves to buyers. The council buys plain gloves for children in families below an income limit and gives them out free at the school gym.**
4	How does a family's ability to pay affect getting gloves in Bayport compared with Cedar Glen?	**In Bayport, people must be able to pay shop prices. In Cedar Glen, eligible families can get a free pair per child even if they cannot afford shop prices.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Local cafes will choose to make rice bowls and fruit because these meals are quick to prepare. The town will pay the cafes for 150 meals each day and deliver those meals to the school library. Students whose families cannot afford lunch will receive tickets for the meals at no cost. Other students can buy lunches directly from the cafes, so public rules and private sales both affect who gets lunch.

Accept other accurate descriptions of each town's production, distribution, and consumers. For the open task, look for a workable role for both private sellers and the town government.