Building Bellora's Future

How public spending supports a nation's development

7.C.7.6 "Analyze the role of government to finance a nation's development (e.g., infrastructure, social programs, and education)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about what Bellora's government paid for in each area: infrastructure, education, and social support. Circle one detail that shows a trade-off in how the government uses money.

A Bridge and a Budget

1 After heavy rains, the bridge into the fictional nation of Bellora's river district closed for safety. Farmers could not get crops to market, and students had a longer trip to school. Bellora's government planned a stronger bridge, but construction crews and materials cost money. It used part of the taxes people and businesses pay to fund the project. Because taxes also support other services, leaders had to decide how much to spend on the bridge and how much to leave for other needs.

2 The government also paid to repair school roofs and train teachers, so classes could continue safely and students could gain skills for future jobs. A temporary meal program helped families whose income fell while the bridge was closed. The program did not rebuild the bridge, but it helped children stay healthy and ready to learn. Together, these choices supported development in different ways: a reliable route for trade, stronger learning, and support during a crisis.

3 To build the bridge sooner, Bellora could borrow money by selling government bonds. People who buy bonds lend the government money, which it must repay later with interest. Borrowing can speed up a costly project, but future budgets must cover repayment as well as services. Leaders chose to use taxes for the school repairs and meal program, while borrowing for part of the bridge. They also budgeted for bridge inspections after construction. Without upkeep, a new bridge might close again and lose much of its value.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could paying for a stronger bridge help Bellora's economy?

2. How could spending on school roofs and teacher training help Bellora develop over time?

3. Why did Bellora fund a meal program while the bridge was closed, even though meals would not fix the bridge?

4. What is one benefit and one future cost of borrowing money for part of the bridge?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Another district in Bellora has unsafe drinking water and too few trained nurses. Choose one new investment, a water-treatment plant or nurse training, and write 4 to 5 sentences explaining how government funding could support development, where the money could come from, and one trade-off.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 7 · 7.C.7.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about what Bellora's government paid for in each area: infrastructure, education, and social support. Circle one detail that shows a trade-off in how the government uses money. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could paying for a stronger bridge help Bellora's economy?	**A stronger bridge could give farmers a reliable route to market, making it easier to sell their crops.**
2	How could spending on school roofs and teacher training help Bellora develop over time?	**Safe classrooms let classes continue, and trained teachers can help students gain skills for future jobs.**
3	Why did Bellora fund a meal program while the bridge was closed, even though meals would not fix the bridge?	**Families had lost income, and the program helped children stay healthy and ready to learn during the crisis.**
4	What is one benefit and one future cost of borrowing money for part of the bridge?	**Borrowing could speed up construction, but future budgets would have to repay the money with interest.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Bellora could use tax money to build a water-treatment plant. Cleaner drinking water could prevent illness and help people attend school and work. Paying for the plant would leave less tax money for other services this year. Leaders would also need to plan for the cost of running the plant after it opens.

Accept other passage-supported explanations that connect spending to trade, learning, health, or future budgets. For Part 3, look for a clear development benefit, a plausible funding source, and a specific trade-off.