Shirts Across Borders

Trace how technology and trade connect everyday lives.

7.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 Circle two technologies, underline two exchanges between countries, and number two effects on people's living standards. Use your marks to trace how the factory and its trading partners affect one another.

The Journey of a Shirt

1. At a clothing factory in Bangladesh, workers sew shirts that may be sold in stores thousands of miles away. Electric sewing machines help workers make more shirts in less time than hand stitching could. Cargo ships carry the finished shirts to buyers in other countries. This trade can give factory workers income to buy food, pay rent, and send children to school. Shoppers abroad may find shirts at lower prices when factories can produce and ship large amounts. These changes can raise living standards, but wages and working conditions still matter.

2. The factory does not work alone. It may buy cotton cloth from another country, import sewing machines, and sell shirts to stores overseas. A shop in another country depends on shipments to stock its shelves, while the factory depends on orders from that shop to keep people employed. Faster communication lets buyers send designs and changes quickly, so factories can respond to demand. Because each group relies on others for materials, sales, or jobs, a problem in one place can affect people elsewhere.

3. Imagine that a major port closes for several weeks after a storm. Ships cannot deliver cloth to the factory on time, so workers may have fewer shirts to make and earn less income. Stores waiting for new shirts may run short, and customers may have fewer choices or face higher prices. Technology can help companies track delayed shipments and contact other suppliers, but it cannot instantly replace every missing delivery. The same links that spread the benefits of trade can also spread the effects of a disruption.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can electric sewing machines and overseas sales together affect factory workers' standard of living?

2. How do the factory and a store overseas depend on each other?

3. How could faster communication between buyers and the factory help both groups?

4. If a port closes, how could the delay affect both workers in Bangladesh and shoppers overseas?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a product other than shirts. In four sentences, explain how a technology supports its trade between countries, one possible effect on people's standard of living, and how two groups in different countries depend on each other.

ANSWER KEY

Shirts Across Borders

GRADE 7 · 7.P.2.4.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle two technologies, underline two exchanges between countries, and number two effects on people's living standards. Use your marks to trace how the factory and its trading partners affect one another. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can electric sewing machines and overseas sales together affect factory workers' standard of living?	**Machines help workers make shirts faster, and overseas sales can provide income for food, rent, and schooling. The passage notes that wages and working conditions still matter.**
2	How do the factory and a store overseas depend on each other?	**The store depends on shipments to stock its shelves, and the factory depends on the store's orders to keep people employed.**
3	How could faster communication between buyers and the factory help both groups?	**Buyers can send designs and changes quickly, allowing the factory to respond to demand and supply shirts the buyers want.**
4	If a port closes, how could the delay affect both workers in Bangladesh and shoppers overseas?	**Late cloth deliveries could leave workers with fewer shirts to make and less income. Overseas shoppers could face fewer choices or higher prices.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Refrigerated containers keep bananas from Ecuador fresh as ships take them to stores in the United States. Selling bananas abroad can give growers income to pay for food and housing. Stores in the United States depend on Ecuadorian growers for fruit to sell. Growers depend on orders from those stores to keep earning income.

Accept other passage-supported effects, including lower shirt prices or fewer choices during a delay. For Your Turn, look for a plausible technology, trade between countries, an effect on living standards, and dependence in both directions.