Routes Beyond Oklahoma

How transportation links an inland state to world markets

OKH.C.8.2.D "Describe the state's connection to international trade through construction of transportation infrastructures (e.g., interstate highway system, McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline built transportation features that connect Oklahoma to foreign markets, and circle places where goods can leave the United States or transfer to an ocean ship. Number three stages of one route from Oklahoma toward a foreign buyer.

From Oklahoma to Other Countries

1. A shipment of Oklahoma wheat can begin far from any seaport. Trucks collect grain from farms and carry it to a loading site, where it can be placed on a barge. The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, completed in 1971, made a dependable water route possible by using locks and dams on the Arkansas and Verdigris rivers. At the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, barges can join this route. They travel through Arkansas to the Mississippi River and toward Gulf Coast ports, where grain may be loaded onto ocean ships bound for other countries.

2. Oklahoma's interstate highways also connect producers to foreign buyers, even though a highway does not cross an ocean. Interstate 35 runs south from Oklahoma through Texas to Laredo, a major crossing into Mexico. A truck carrying Oklahoma-made machinery can follow that highway to the border, where the shipment can enter Mexico. Interstate 40 runs east and west across Oklahoma, linking businesses to routes toward ports and distribution centers in other states. These long-distance road links can move smaller or time-sensitive loads by truck, rather than waiting for space on a barge.

3. Neither system alone completes every international shipment. A truck may first carry goods from an Oklahoma factory to an inland port, and a barge may carry them toward a Gulf Coast seaport. Ocean ships then take those goods abroad. For a buyer in Mexico, trucks may instead travel south on Interstate 35 and cross the border without using a barge. The river system offers a water route for heavy bulk loads, while interstates provide flexible road connections to ports and land borders. By building both systems, Oklahoma gained more ways to connect its inland producers with markets outside the United States.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the locks and dams of the McClellan-Kerr system help connect Oklahoma goods to buyers overseas?

2. How can Interstate 35 help an Oklahoma machinery shipment reach a buyer in Mexico?

3. Why might a business choose the river system for one shipment but an interstate for another?

4. Describe how an interstate, the river system, and an ocean ship could work together to export goods from Oklahoma.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine an Oklahoma company exports a product not named in the passage. In three or four sentences, describe a believable route to a buyer in another country using at least one transportation system from the passage, and explain how that system makes the international sale possible.

ANSWER KEY

Routes Beyond Oklahoma

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.8.2.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline built transportation features that connect Oklahoma to foreign markets, and circle places where goods can leave the United States or transfer to an ocean ship. Number three stages of one route from Oklahoma toward a foreign buyer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the locks and dams of the McClellan-Kerr system help connect Oklahoma goods to buyers overseas?	**They make a dependable barge route possible from Oklahoma toward Gulf Coast ports, where goods can transfer to ocean ships.**
2	How can Interstate 35 help an Oklahoma machinery shipment reach a buyer in Mexico?	**A truck can carry the machinery south on Interstate 35 to Laredo, where the shipment can cross into Mexico.**
3	Why might a business choose the river system for one shipment but an interstate for another?	**The river route can carry heavy bulk loads toward seaports, while interstates offer flexible road connections for smaller or time-sensitive loads.**
4	Describe how an interstate, the river system, and an ocean ship could work together to export goods from Oklahoma.	**A truck could use an interstate to reach an Oklahoma inland port. A barge could then carry the goods toward a Gulf Coast seaport, where an ocean ship could take them abroad.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

An Oklahoma company makes bicycles for customers in Mexico. Trucks take boxed bicycles south on Interstate 35 through Texas to the border at Laredo. The interstate connects the inland factory to a land crossing, where the shipment can enter Mexico and reach its buyers.

Accept other plausible export routes that name an interstate or the McClellan-Kerr system and explain its connection to a foreign buyer. For river routes, look for a transfer toward an ocean ship or another clear step beyond the inland waterway.