Coffee Across Borders

Trace one shipment through geographic perspectives

WG.C.1.1 "Analyze key concepts underlying the geographical perspectives of location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about location, one about place, and one about connections across space. Circle a pattern, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside evidence of local, regional, and global scales.

A Shipment Through Rotterdam

1. Imagine a shipment of coffee beans grown in Colombia and sent by ship to Rotterdam, a port city in the Netherlands. Its location near the North Sea and the mouth of the Rhine-Maas river system gives ships access to routes into Europe. Location answers where a place is and what lies nearby. Place asks what makes a site distinctive: Rotterdam has docks, warehouses, and workers who handle cargo. These features matter because beans must be unloaded and stored before traveling on to a roaster in Germany. The same spot can be described by coordinates, but its role in trade explains why shippers use it.

2. Space concerns the distances and connections between sites, not just the sites themselves. A ship crosses the Atlantic, and a train or truck can carry beans inland from Rotterdam. A straight-line distance from Colombia to Germany leaves out the port and the routes that make the trip possible. Cargo facilities often cluster near major ports because many shipments pass through them. That clustering is a pattern, a repeated arrangement in space. It does not mean every town along the route has a warehouse. Looking for concentrations and gaps helps a geographer explain why trade activity is uneven.

3. The shipment looks different at different scales. At a local scale, a planner might ask where trucks enter a Rotterdam warehouse. At a regional scale, a researcher might study the port's trading links with nearby European destinations. At a global scale, the route connects a South American grower, a European port, and a German roaster. A region can be defined by a shared connection, such as places served by the same port, rather than by a national border alone. Globalization is the growing integration of activities across distant places; this coffee route shows how work in several countries can depend on one connected supply chain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Rotterdam's location and its qualities as a place each help explain its role in the shipment?

2. What does tracing the shipment's route reveal about space that a straight-line distance would miss? What pattern appears near major ports?

3. How does a change from local to global scale change the question a geographer asks about this shipment? Give one question at each scale.

4. If you define a region by trade connections instead of national borders, which places might belong? How does that choice help reveal globalization in this example?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a product other than coffee and describe a real or imagined route it could take. In 5 to 6 sentences, analyze its location and place, connections across space, a likely pattern, local and global scales, a useful trade region, and globalization; identify the route as imagined if you invent it.

ANSWER KEY

Coffee Across Borders

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about location, one about place, and one about connections across space. Circle a pattern, then write 1, 2, and 3 beside evidence of local, regional, and global scales. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Rotterdam's location and its qualities as a place each help explain its role in the shipment?	**Its location near the North Sea and Rhine-Maas river system connects it to shipping routes. Its docks, warehouses, and cargo workers allow beans to be unloaded and stored.**
2	What does tracing the shipment's route reveal about space that a straight-line distance would miss? What pattern appears near major ports?	**The route includes an Atlantic crossing, a stop at Rotterdam, and an inland trip by train or truck. Cargo facilities often cluster near major ports.**
3	How does a change from local to global scale change the question a geographer asks about this shipment? Give one question at each scale.	**Locally, a geographer might ask where trucks enter a Rotterdam warehouse. Globally, a geographer might ask how the Colombian grower, Rotterdam port, and German roaster are connected.**
4	If you define a region by trade connections instead of national borders, which places might belong? How does that choice help reveal globalization in this example?	**Rotterdam and nearby European destinations served by its port could form a region. Their links to coffee grown in Colombia show how activities across countries depend on one supply chain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Imagine a bicycle assembled in Vietnam and shipped to a store in Seattle. Seattle's coastal location offers access to ocean shipping, while its port facilities make it a useful place for handling cargo. Across space, the bicycle could travel by ship and then by truck, rather than moving along a straight line. Warehouses might cluster near the port because shipments need places to be sorted. At a local scale, a store manager could study delivery streets, while at a global scale, a geographer could study links between Vietnam and the United States. A trade region of places served by Seattle's port would cross city boundaries, and the international supply chain illustrates globalization.

Accept other passage-supported examples of local and global questions or port-linked regional boundaries. For Part 3, look for a plausible route and an explanation of each requested geographic perspective, not just a list of terms.