

Texas Trade Trails

Read how choices, markets, and transportation shaped Texas business.

4.10 "Economics. The student understands the characteristics and benefits of the free enterprise system in Texas. The student is expected to: describe how the free enterprise system works, including supply and demand..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that explains supply or demand, circle examples of choice or opportunity, and number the two Texas developments that helped free enterprise grow.

From Crops to Customers

- ① In a free enterprise system, people can own businesses and make many economic choices. At a Texas farmers market, growers decide what vegetables to sell and shoppers decide what to buy. Supply is the amount of a product sellers offer. Demand is how much buyers want it. If many shoppers want peaches but few are for sale, growers may raise prices or bring more peaches next time.
- ② Competition happens when businesses try to attract the same customers. A bakery might offer fresh bread, while another bakery offers different flavors. This competition can give people choice. Free enterprise also gives people opportunity. A person with an idea can start a business, work for a business, or improve a product. Success is not promised, but people can try new ideas and earn money from their work.
- ③ Texas developed its free enterprise system over time. Early colonists grew cash crops, crops raised to sell for money, such as cotton and sugar cane. Selling these crops connected farmers with buyers and businesses. Later, a railroad boom carried goods and people farther and faster. Railroads helped farmers reach more markets, helped towns grow, and created chances for stores and other businesses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What could growers do when demand for peaches is high but the supply is low?

2 How does competition give customers choice? Use the bakery example.

3 Name one opportunity that free enterprise can give a person.

4 Describe the two developments in Texas that helped free enterprise grow.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a Texas business that sells something not named in the passage. In three sentences, explain its supply and demand, name a choice or opportunity it provides, and tell what the owner could do if demand rises.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that explains supply or demand, circle examples of choice or opportunity, and number the two Texas developments that helped free enterprise grow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What could growers do when demand for peaches is high but the supply is low?	They may raise prices or bring more peaches to the market next time.
2	How does competition give customers choice? Use the bakery example.	Different bakeries can offer different products, such as fresh bread or different flavors, so customers can choose.
3	Name one opportunity that free enterprise can give a person.	A person can start a business, work for a business, or improve a product.
4	Describe the two developments in Texas that helped free enterprise grow.	Early colonists grew cash crops to sell for money. Later, railroads moved goods and people farther and faster, helping farmers reach markets and towns grow.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya opens a Texas kite shop and sells kites to families. When more buyers want kites than are in supply, demand is high, so she can order more kites. Families have a choice of kite colors, and Maya has the opportunity to earn money from her idea.

Accept equivalent explanations of high demand and low supply, including raising prices or increasing the amount offered. For the open response, accept any accurate original business scenario that includes supply and demand, a benefit of free enterprise, and a reasonable action for higher demand.