From Ports to Patents

Trace how economic freedom grew and where it was limited.

5.10.A “identify the development of the free enterprise system in colonial America and the United States;”

NAME ______________________ DATE ______________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show people gaining chances to buy, sell, own, or compete. Circle two details that show limits on those chances, so you can trace how free enterprise developed.

Building an Economic System

1 Free enterprise is an economic system in which people can own property, start businesses, choose jobs, and compete to earn profits. In colonial America, farmers sold crops, artisans made goods, and merchants traded in busy ports. Many people made their own choices about work and sales. These local markets helped colonists practice buying, selling, and owning businesses.

2 British rule also placed limits on colonial trade. Under mercantilism, Britain expected the colonies to send raw materials to Britain and to buy many British goods. Navigation Acts controlled which ships and markets colonists could use. These rules did not create free enterprise, but colonists' experience as traders and business owners made them value greater economic freedom.

3 After independence, the United States created rules that supported a broader free enterprise system. The Constitution protected contracts, allowed Congress to regulate trade among states, and gave Congress power to protect inventors' patents. During the 1800s, new roads, canals, factories, and banks connected buyers and sellers. Still, slavery and unfair laws denied many people the chance to own property or compete freely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What three economic activities did local markets help colonists practice?

2. How did the Navigation Acts limit colonial trade?

3. Name two ways the Constitution supported free enterprise after independence.

4. How did new roads, canals, factories, and banks help free enterprise grow during the 1800s?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you own a small business in 1825. Write exactly three sentences: describe what you sell, tell one way a road, canal, bank, or patent helps your business, and explain one fair rule or condition that would help people compete.

From Ports to Patents

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show people gaining chances to buy, sell, own, or compete. Circle two details that show limits on those chances, so you can trace how free enterprise developed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three economic activities did local markets help colonists practice?	**Buying, selling, and owning businesses.**
2	How did the Navigation Acts limit colonial trade?	**They controlled which ships and markets colonists could use.**
3	Name two ways the Constitution supported free enterprise after independence.	**Any two: it protected contracts, allowed Congress to regulate trade among states, and gave Congress power to protect inventors' patents.**
4	How did new roads, canals, factories, and banks help free enterprise grow during the 1800s?	**They connected buyers and sellers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I own a shop that sells cloth made by local weavers. A canal helps my cloth reach buyers in other towns. A fair law would let all people make contracts and own businesses, so more people could compete.

Accept equivalent wording supported by the passage for Part 2. For Your Turn, accept any accurate three-sentence response that includes a business, a named support for trade or invention, and a fair condition for competition.