

Goods on the Move

Compare three systems for making and sharing goods and services.

6.7.A “compare ways in which various societies organize the production and distribution of goods and services;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail that tells how goods or services are produced, circle each detail that tells how goods reach people, and number the three societies in the order they appear so you can compare their systems.

Three Ways to Organize

- ① In the Inca Empire of South America, many families paid a labor tax called mita instead of using money for taxes. Local officials organized workers to farm terraces, build roads, weave cloth, and work mines. The government collected some harvests and other goods in storehouses. Officials sent supplies from these storehouses to armies, work crews, and communities facing crop failures. This system relied on government planning and required labor, rather than private shops and regular cash markets.
- ② In many medieval European towns, skilled makers belonged to guilds. A guild trained apprentices and set rules for products such as shoes, cloth, or metal tools. Individual artisans produced goods in their own workshops, while nearby farmers grew food. On market days, people brought goods to a town square, where buyers chose what to purchase. Merchants also carried goods between towns. Prices and customer choices helped decide which goods makers would continue to produce in the future.
- ③ In a modern market economy, such as the United States, businesses usually decide what to make by predicting what customers will buy. Workers produce goods or provide services for wages, and companies use stores, trucks, and online sellers to reach customers. Government rules may protect consumers and workers, but government officials do not direct most production. Like medieval towns, this system uses buyers and sellers. Unlike the Inca system, it depends mainly on prices, wages, and private decisions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Inca government organize production differently from guilds in medieval European towns?

2 Compare how goods were distributed in the Inca Empire and in medieval European towns.

3 How did medieval European towns and the modern United States similarly use customer choices?

4 Compare the role of government in the Inca system and in the modern United States system.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a community that has its own way to produce and distribute one good or service. Write five sentences that explain its system and compare it with either the Inca system or the medieval town system.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail that tells how goods or services are produced, circle each detail that tells how goods reach people, and number the three societies in the order they appear so you can compare their systems. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Inca government organize production differently from guilds in medieval European towns?	Inca officials organized required labor for farming, roads, cloth, and mines. Medieval guilds trained artisans and set rules, while artisans worked in their own workshops.
2	Compare how goods were distributed in the Inca Empire and in medieval European towns.	Inca officials sent stored supplies to armies, work crews, and communities with crop failures. In medieval towns, people sold goods in markets and merchants carried goods between towns.
3	How did medieval European towns and the modern United States similarly use customer choices?	Both used buyers and sellers. Customer choices helped guide what goods makers or businesses would produce.
4	Compare the role of government in the Inca system and in the modern United States system.	The Inca government directly organized labor, collected goods, and distributed supplies. In the United States, government rules may protect people, but businesses make most production decisions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Harbor Island, families fish, but a village council assigns crews to repair boats and smoke extra fish. The council stores part of each catch in a shared building. Each week, workers deliver stored fish to families with fewer fish. Like the Inca system, Harbor Island uses officials and storage to organize goods. Unlike the medieval town, Harbor Island does not depend on buyers choosing fish at a market.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately distinguish government planning and storage from workshop, market, or private business systems. For the open response, accept any logical invented system with a clear production method, distribution method, and accurate comparison to one passage system.