

From Farms to Markets

Trace why economic activities and trade happen in particular places.

WG.16.a "examining factors that influence the distribution of economic activities and trade; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that names a factor affecting where bananas are grown, processed, or traded. Number the factors 1, 2, 3, and so on to show that location decisions depend on several conditions.

The Banana Trade Route

- ① Bananas are grown in tropical parts of Ecuador because the crop needs warm temperatures, steady rain, and fertile soil. Farms often stand near roads that lead to ports. After harvesting, workers pack green bananas quickly because the fruit can spoil. A nearby port lets refrigerated ships carry the bananas to distant buyers. These natural resources and transportation links help explain why growing and packing activities are concentrated in particular places along Ecuador's coast rather than inland areas.
- ② Once bananas reach a consumer country, some companies ripen, slice, or turn them into baby food near large cities. City locations provide many customers, workers, warehouses, and stores. Processing close to shoppers can reduce the time and cost of moving a finished, perishable product. However, businesses may choose another site if land, electricity, or labor costs are much lower there. Decisions about location weigh several advantages, not one factor alone, when planning production for trade.
- ③ Trade rules and business connections also affect the route. Ecuadorian banana exporters sell to countries with buyers willing to pay for the fruit. A lower import tax can make bananas less expensive in a foreign market, which may increase sales. Companies also need reliable shipping schedules and agreements with stores. If a port closes after a storm, farms may send less fruit abroad until transport returns. Changes in policy, demand, or infrastructure can shift trade over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two natural conditions make tropical Ecuador a useful place to grow bananas?

2 Why are banana farms and packing activities often located near roads and ports?

3 Give two advantages of processing bananas near a large city.

4 How could a lower import tax affect Ecuadorian banana trade in another country?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a trade plan for a product not named in the passage. In five sentences, explain where it would be produced, where it would be sold, and how at least three factors, such as resources, workers, transportation, demand, or taxes, would shape the plan.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that names a factor affecting where bananas are grown, processed, or traded. Number the factors 1, 2, 3, and so on to show that location decisions depend on several conditions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two natural conditions make tropical Ecuador a useful place to grow bananas?	Warm temperatures and steady rain are two natural conditions. Fertile soil is also acceptable.
2	Why are banana farms and packing activities often located near roads and ports?	Roads and ports help move bananas quickly to refrigerated ships and distant buyers before the fruit spoils.
3	Give two advantages of processing bananas near a large city.	Large cities provide customers, workers, warehouses, and stores. Processing near shoppers can also reduce the time and cost of moving a perishable finished product.
4	How could a lower import tax affect Ecuadorian banana trade in another country?	It could make bananas less expensive in that foreign market and may increase sales.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A business could dry mangoes in a tropical region where warm weather and fertile land support mango farms. It could place its drying plant near the farms to move fresh fruit quickly. A highway to a seaport would help ship packaged mangoes to a nearby city with many shoppers. Affordable electricity and available workers could lower the cost of processing. The business would also check import taxes before selling in the city.

Accept equivalent factors and cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, accept any realistic product and locations if the student explains at least three relevant factors and connects them to production or trade.