

From Beans to Bars

Analyze how products and information move through global networks.

WG.16.b “analyzing global trade and communication networks.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every phrase that shows a product moving, and circle every phrase that shows information moving or being used, to see how the two networks depend on each other.

Chocolate's Connected Journey

- ① Before a chocolate bar reaches a store, its ingredients and information travel through connected networks. Cocoa beans may be grown by farmers in Côte d'Ivoire, where a large share of the world's cocoa is produced. Trucks carry beans to ports, and cargo ships move them to factories in Europe or North America. At each step, companies use phone calls, shipping records, and online messages to arrange deliveries, check prices, and tell buyers when cargo will arrive there.
- ② Communication networks do more than send updates. A cocoa buyer can compare prices from several sellers, while a factory can report how many beans it needs. Digital tracking systems can show a container's location as it moves between ports. This information helps businesses plan truck schedules and store deliveries. It also connects people who may never meet in person, including farmers, exporters, ship crews, factory workers, store managers, and customers in different countries and time zones.
- ③ Because the networks are linked, a problem in one place can affect people far away. Heavy rain can damage roads between farms and a port, slowing cocoa shipments. If factories receive fewer beans, they may make less chocolate or pay more for supplies. Stores might then have fewer bars to sell or higher prices. Businesses can use messages and tracking data to find another route, change an order, or explain a delay, but these responses may cost time and money.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Trace the trade route for cocoa beans from the farm to a factory. Name the two types of transportation in the passage.

2 What are two ways communication networks help businesses manage the cocoa trade?

3 Explain the chain of effects that could happen after heavy rain damages roads between farms and a port.

4 Why can a shipping delay affect customers who live far from the cocoa farms?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a product other than chocolate. Write exactly five sentences that trace it from a producer to a consumer, name a communication tool or message used in the network, and explain one disruption, its effect, and one possible response.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every phrase that shows a product moving, and circle every phrase that shows information moving or being used, to see how the two networks depend on each other. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Trace the trade route for cocoa beans from the farm to a factory. Name the two types of transportation in the passage.	Cocoa beans move from farms to ports by truck, then from ports to factories by cargo ship.
2	What are two ways communication networks help businesses manage the cocoa trade?	They help businesses compare prices, report how many beans a factory needs, track container locations, and plan truck and store deliveries. Any two are acceptable.
3	Explain the chain of effects that could happen after heavy rain damages roads between farms and a port.	Road damage slows cocoa shipments. Factories may receive fewer beans and make less chocolate or pay more, so stores may have fewer bars or higher prices.
4	Why can a shipping delay affect customers who live far from the cocoa farms?	The trade network links farms, ports, factories, stores, and customers. A delay can reduce the chocolate available at stores or raise its price.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Workers in India grow cotton that is shipped to a factory in Bangladesh, where it is made into T-shirts. A cargo ship carries the shirts to a store in Canada. The factory uses digital orders to learn how many shirts the store needs, and tracking messages tell the store when the ship is delayed. If a storm closes the port, the store may receive fewer shirts and customers may face higher prices. The company could use messages to choose a different port or tell the store to change its order.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the linked movement of goods, information, people, and effects across countries. For Part 3, accept any plausible global network that includes all required elements and shows a logical disruption-response connection.