

Trade and Interdependence

Grade 4 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students explain how trade allows states and countries to exchange goods and depend on one another for resources and products. • Standards: D2.Eco.4.3-5, D2.Eco.9.3-5

Read each trade scenario carefully. Answer the question by explaining why the trade happens or how the trading partners depend on each other.

1. Maine has lots of lobsters but no oranges. Florida has lots of oranges but no lobsters. Why would these two states trade with each other?
2. A bakery needs flour to make bread. A farmer grows wheat and mills it into flour. How does the bakery depend on the farmer?
3. Japan makes many cars and electronics but must buy oil from other countries. Why does Japan need to trade with oil-producing countries?
4. A mountain town produces wool from sheep. A coastal town catches fish. If they trade wool for fish, what does each town gain?
5. Brazil grows coffee beans but does not produce computers. The United States produces computers but cannot grow much coffee. Explain how trade helps both countries.
6. A furniture maker in North Carolina buys wood from Canada and sells finished tables to stores in Texas. Name two ways this furniture maker depends on trade.
7. Country A has rich soil and grows rice. Country B has forests and produces lumber. Country C has mines and produces iron. If all three countries trade with each other, why is this better than each country working alone?
8. A toy company in Ohio buys plastic from a factory in Louisiana, rubber from a supplier in Mexico, and sells finished toys to stores across the United States. Describe how this company is part of an interdependent system.
9. Australia exports wool and beef to many countries but imports machinery and technology. If Australia stopped trading with other countries, what problems might it

face?

10. A smartphone contains glass from one country, metal from another country, computer chips from a third country, and is assembled in a fourth country. Explain why this product shows global interdependence.

Answer Key — Trade and Interdependence

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. Each state has something the other state needs or wants.
2. The bakery depends on the farmer to provide the flour it needs to make bread.
3. Japan does not have enough oil of its own, so it must get oil from other countries.
4. The mountain town gets fish it cannot catch, and the coastal town gets wool it cannot produce.
5. Trade lets Brazil get computers and the United States get coffee, so both countries have what they need.
6. The furniture maker depends on Canada for wood and depends on Texas stores to buy the tables.
7. Each country can focus on what it does best and trade to get the other resources it needs.
8. The company depends on suppliers in different places for materials and depends on stores in many states to sell its products.
9. Australia would have trouble getting the machinery and technology it needs, and it would have extra wool and beef with no one to sell it to.
10. The smartphone cannot be made without materials and work from many different countries, so all these countries depend on each other to create the final product.