

Grade 8 History & Geography

Unit 4: Economics in World History

2 lessons and a unit quiz. Use this pack with the **Economics in World History Student Reader** (print it, or download it once from the course) to teach the whole unit without the internet.

What is in this pack

- A lesson plan for each chapter: the Big Question, words to know, which pages to read, questions to talk over and the activity pages.
- The unit quiz, ready to print.
- Answers for the teacher at the back: every discussion question and the quiz key.

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Lesson schedule

Two or three lessons a week, about 30 minutes each. Tick each one off as you go.

	Lesson	Reader pages	Activity pages
☐	Chapter 1: What Is an Economy?	PDF pages 50–59	AP 1.1
☐	Chapter 2: Economics Throughout World History	PDF pages 60–78	AP 2.1
☐	Unit quiz	—	—

Page numbers are the PDF page numbers of the Student Reader file, so they match what your PDF reader shows.

Chapter 1: What Is an Economy?

THE BIG QUESTION

How do people in modern societies decide what to produce, who to produce it for, and how to produce it?

Words to know

- **economy** — the way a country manages its money and resources to produce, buy, and sell goods and services *Some governments play an active role in their country's economy by supporting businesses and workers.*
- **money** — a medium of exchange used in financial transactions *Money is widely accepted as payment in stores across the country.*
- **factors of production** — resources required to produce a good or service *The manufacturer began to acquire all the factors of production needed to make their product.*
- **scarcity** — a limitation to the supply of a resource, good, or service *The rapid spread of disease among chickens led to a scarcity of eggs.*
- **trade-off** — the result of a decision in which something is gained and something else is lost *One trade-off of staying home to study was missing out on a visit with friends.*
- **opportunity cost** — the value of the option that was not chosen whenever a choice is made *The sports fan's opportunity cost of buying a ticket for the game was the replica jersey that he could no longer afford.*
- **supply** — the amount of a resource, good, or service that is available *The supply of locally produced fresh fruit increases each spring and summer.*
- **demand** — the amount of a resource, good, or service that is wanted *The demand for airline seats increases around holidays, when people want to travel to be with family.*
- **exchange** — a trade of one thing for another *The children assigned different values to the trading cards during their exchange.*
- **barter** — the act or practice of trading one good or service for another *Mary engaged in barter by providing pizza in exchange for her friends helping her move.*
- **medium of exchange** — a material that can be used as payment *Is money still a more common medium of exchange than credit?*
- **standard of value** — a unit that can be used to communicate how much something is worth *In most countries, money is used to set a standard of value for goods and services.*
- **store of value** — something that can be saved up and used at a later date *Some people do not trust money as a store of value; instead of opening a savings account, they buy precious metals.*

- **credit** — a promise to pay in the future for goods or services obtained in the present
The man used credit to pay for car repairs because he did not have cash available.
- **standard of living** — the wealth, goods, and services available to the people in a certain place
The standard of living in Canada is high compared to developing countries.

Read

Read Chapter 1 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 50–59. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. How do traditional economies compare to market economies?
2. What is the purpose of an economy?
3. What are the factors of production?
4. A student decides to stay home and study for a test instead of going to the movies with friends. What is the opportunity cost of her decision?
5. How does an increase in price above the equilibrium price affect supply and demand? What will result?
6. Aside from price, what other factors influence how people make decisions about what to buy or sell?
7. What is the oldest form of economic exchange?
8. What functions does money serve in an economy?
9. Why is credit helpful to consumers?
10. Why do countries trade with each other?
11. What is a marketplace?
12. Why is education mandatory in many countries?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How do people in modern societies decide what to produce, who to produce it for, and how to produce it?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: Domain Vocabulary: Chapter 1 — Teacher Guide PDF pages 88–89

Chapter 2: Economics Throughout World History

THE BIG QUESTION

How have economies around the world changed throughout history?

Words to know

- **Silk Road** — a series of trade routes connecting Europe and Asia *Traders carried both precious goods and new ideas on the Silk Road between China and Southwest Asia.*
- **feudal** — describing a system in which nobility gives land to vassals in exchange for military service *Japan developed a feudal society that placed powerful lords at the top of the social order.*
- **monopoly** — the complete ownership or control of a resource or industry *As the store was the only one in the neighborhood, it had a monopoly on selling groceries to local residents.*
- **Mesoamerica** — a region stretching from present-day central Mexico to northern Costa Rica *Mesoamerica was home to impressive civilizations, such as the Maya and the Aztec.*
- **microclimate** — a small area with unique climate because of its geography *The microclimate of the valley was warmer than the surrounding mountains.*
- **mercantilism** — an economic policy intended to reduce a kingdom's need for imports by using colonies as a source of raw materials *European powers used mercantilism to build their economic and political influence.*
- **cottage industry** — manufacturing carried out in the home *The cottage industry of weaving cloth slowly disappeared as textile production moved to factories.*
- **Scientific Revolution** — a significant change in scientific thought that occurred in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries *During the Scientific Revolution, individuals such as Sir Isaac Newton proposed new theories about natural phenomena such as gravity.*
- **triangular trade** — a system of trade routes that sent captured enslaved Africans to the Americas, raw materials to Europe, and finished goods back to the Americas *The triangular trade devastated the population of West Africa while bringing wealth to plantation owners and slave traders.*
- **globalization** — the state of a worldwide economy that includes free trade and inexpensive labor markets in other countries *Globalization is made easier by new technologies and rapid forms of communication.*
- **multinational corporation** — a company that has some portion of its business in two or more different nations *The multinational corporation opened offices in Europe and Australia and factories in Indonesia and South America.*

- **offshoring** — the policy of moving some jobs or functions of a company overseas to places where labor is less expensive *Offshoring enabled the company to lower production costs, but it caused many workers to lose their jobs.*
- **economic imperialism** — a situation in which developing nations are economically dependent on developed ones and thus must bend to their will in order to function *Economic imperialism continues to hurt the economies of developing nations while multinational corporations gain wealth.*

Read

Read Chapter 2 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 60–78. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What was the Royal Road?
2. What features contributed to the economic success of Mesopotamia?
3. What is a similarity between the economies of Mesopotamia and Egypt?
4. What resource helped both Ghana and Mali become wealthy?
5. How did the trans-Saharan trade influence the kingdoms of West Africa?
6. How did the location of Greece affect the development of its economy?
7. How were the economies of Athens and Sparta similar and different?
8. Who was Emperor Wu?
9. Why did the Han carefully guard the process of making silk?
10. How did the Silk Road contribute to the spread of ideas and religions?
11. How did Justinian's actions affect the price of silk?
12. What was the Pax Mongolica?
13. Why did trade on the Silk Road end?
14. What was Japan's feudal economy based on?
15. What effect did growing wealth inequality have on feudal Japan?
16. What was the basis of the economies of the Maya and the Aztec?
17. How did the Inca economy differ from the economies in Mesoamerica?
18. How did the Inca use microclimates to their advantage?
19. What was the main reason European countries set up colonies in the Americas?
20. How did the colonies contribute to mercantilism?
21. What developments do you think led to the decline of cottage industries?
22. How did European mercantilism deprive Africa and Latin America of wealth?
23. How did European colonization affect African populations?
24. How did industrialization increase wealth disparity?
25. Why is Coca-Cola considered a multinational corporation?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How have economies around the world changed throughout history?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 2.1: Domain Vocabulary: Chapter 2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 90

UNIT QUIZ

Economics in World History

Name: _____ Date: _____

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. How were the Royal Road and the Silk Road similar?
 - a) They connected the Mediterranean and Asia through trade.
 - b) They contributed to the spread of Buddhism and Islam.
 - c) They were formed by military conquest.
 - d) They developed in major river valleys.
2. Which is a similarity among the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush?
 - a) They dominated trade in the Fertile Crescent.
 - b) They learned how to make paper from papyrus.
 - c) They relied on annual flooding of the Nile River.
 - d) They used barter as their main form of exchange.
3. What impact did the trans-Saharan trade have on Mali?
 - a) It led to an invasion by Ghana.
 - b) It introduced the religion of Islam.
 - c) It led to the discovery of gold mines.
 - d) It introduced salt as a medium of exchange.
4. In a command economy, who makes all of the economic choices?
 - a) traditional leaders
 - b) the government
 - c) buyers
 - d) sellers
5. What is a primary purpose of an economy?
 - a) to encourage cooperation between buyers
 - b) to supply needs and wants to consumers
 - c) to decrease reliance on foreign imports
 - d) to limit the use of natural resources
6. Land, labor, and capital are all _____.
 - a) trade-offs
 - b) standards of value
 - c) natural resources
 - d) factors of production
7. What happens when there is a scarcity of a good?
 - a) The value goes up.
 - b) The supply goes up.
 - c) The demand goes down.
 - d) The opportunity cost goes down.

- 8.** What is the oldest form of exchange?
- a) barter
 - b) credit
 - c) money
 - d) trade-off
- 9.** What is one benefit of money?
- a) It is a store of value.
 - b) It sets the equilibrium price.
 - c) It is the same in every country.
 - d) It lets people pay for purchases in the future.
- 10.** Why do some countries invest heavily in their school systems?
- a) to eliminate the need for credit
 - b) to help buyers make choices
 - c) to create a standard of value
 - d) to raise the standard of living
- 11.** How did Solon impact the economy of ancient Athens?
- a) by ending the practice of slavery
 - b) by conquering people in nearby regions
 - c) by requiring all men to serve in the military
 - d) by creating a system of taxes based on wealth
- 12.** How were the economies of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca similar?
- a) They grew wealthy from trade.
 - b) They had clear divisions of labor.
 - c) They relied on the production of crops.
 - d) They were controlled by a supreme leader.
- 13.** What was the main role of colonies under mercantilism?
- a) to supply enslaved labor
 - b) to provide raw materials
 - c) to create finished goods
 - d) to develop cottage industries
- 14.** What was one effect of the triangular trade?
- a) It made the Americas vulnerable to conquest.
 - b) It concentrated wealth in the Global South.
 - c) It undermined the Industrial Revolution.
 - d) It robbed Africa of its population.
- 15.** How does globalization contribute to economic imperialism?
- a) by producing inexpensive manufactured goods
 - b) by placing limits on multinational corporations
 - c) by encouraging the practice of offshoring
 - d) by increasing reliance on technology

Answers

Chapter 1: What Is an Economy?

1. **How do traditional economies compare to market economies?**

In a market economy, buyers and sellers make economic choices. This differs from a traditional economy that relies on customs, traditions, and beliefs to make economic choices.

2. **What is the purpose of an economy?**

The purpose of an economy is to help deliver to people their wants and needs.

3. **What are the factors of production?**

The factors of production are labor, natural resources, and capital.

4. **A student decides to stay home and study for a test instead of going to the movies with friends. What is the opportunity cost of her decision?**

The opportunity cost of her decision is time spent with friends.

5. **How does an increase in price above the equilibrium price affect supply and demand? What will result?**

When price increases above the equilibrium price, the quantity supplied will be greater than the quantity demanded. The result will be that sellers are left with a surplus they cannot sell. They will have to reduce the price.

6. **Aside from price, what other factors influence how people make decisions about what to buy or sell?**

Decisions about what to buy and sell are influenced by personal fulfillment, values, and future planning.

7. **What is the oldest form of economic exchange?**

The oldest form of economic exchange is barter.

8. **What functions does money serve in an economy?**

Money serves as a medium of exchange, a standard of value, and a store of value.

9. **Why is credit helpful to consumers?**

Credit is convenient and allows consumers to buy a good or service that they do not have money for at the time instead of doing without it until they have saved enough to buy it outright.

10. **Why do countries trade with each other?**

Countries trade with each other because each country has resources that others lack or have little of and because countries specialize in producing certain goods and services, so they need to trade for others.

11. **What is a marketplace?**

A marketplace is a physical or virtual place where people come together to buy, sell, and trade goods and services.

12. **Why is education mandatory in many countries?**

Education is mandatory in many countries to maintain a strong economy and high

standard of living.

Chapter 2: Economics Throughout World History

1. What was the Royal Road?

The Royal Road was a network of trade routes that stretched from the Mediterranean Sea to West Asia.

2. What features contributed to the economic success of Mesopotamia?

The river valley of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers provided for people in the region. The area was rich in fertile soil and other natural resources.

3. What is a similarity between the economies of Mesopotamia and Egypt?

The economies of Mesopotamia and Egypt both relied on major rivers for agriculture and trade.

4. What resource helped both Ghana and Mali become wealthy?

Both kingdoms were rich in gold, which helped them grow wealthy.

5. How did the trans-Saharan trade influence the kingdoms of West Africa?

The trans-Saharan trade affected the kingdoms of West Africa by bringing precious goods like salt to the region. Muslim traders also brought Islam to the region. Over time, Mali became a center of Islamic learning through the efforts of Mansa Musa and later rulers.

6. How did the location of Greece affect the development of its economy?

Greece developed along coasts and on islands. This encouraged the ancient Greeks to turn to the sea for food and for trade.

7. How were the economies of Athens and Sparta similar and different?

The economies of Athens and Sparta were similar in that both relied on forced labor. Unlike Athens, Sparta's economy was based on its military. The Spartans conquered neighboring civilizations and forced their workers to produce the goods they needed.

8. Who was Emperor Wu?

Emperor Wu was a ruler of China who expanded trade routes beyond the borders of the Chinese empire.

9. Why did the Han carefully guard the process of making silk?

The Han carefully guarded the process of making silk because doing so allowed them to control its supply and its price.

10. How did the Silk Road contribute to the spread of ideas and religions?

Traders along the Silk Road carried with them their ideas and their beliefs. Contact between traders from different civilizations allowed these ideas to spread.

11. How did Justinian's actions affect the price of silk?

Justinian sent spies disguised as monks to learn how to make silk in China. They stole these secrets and began making silk in the Byzantine Empire. This caused the price of silk to drop as the supply increased.

12. What was the Pax Mongolica?

The Pax Mongolica was a time of relative peace and prosperity in the Mongol Empire thanks to the policies of Genghis Khan.

13. Why did trade on the Silk Road end?

In the 1400s CE, the Ottoman Empire boycotted trade with Europe and closed the land routes that passed through its empire.

14. What was Japan's feudal economy based on?

Japan's feudal economy was based on agriculture.

15. What effect did growing wealth inequality have on feudal Japan?

While some Japanese landowners prospered, others borrowed money they could not repay and lost their lands. The resulting wealth gap led to the concentration of money and power in the hands of a few powerful families, who engaged each other in ongoing wars.

16. What was the basis of the economies of the Maya and the Aztec?

The economies of both the Maya and the Aztec were primarily agricultural.

17. How did the Inca economy differ from the economies in Mesoamerica?

Possible answer: Unlike the economies of Mesoamerica, the Inca economy was highly centralized.

18. How did the Inca use microclimates to their advantage?

The Inca used microclimates to their advantage by building terrace farms at different elevations, each one having a different temperature and amount of sunlight per day. This enabled them to grow a diverse range and an abundance of crops.

19. What was the main reason European countries set up colonies in the Americas?

European countries set up colonies in the Americas for financial gain.

20. How did the colonies contribute to mercantilism?

Colonies contributed to mercantilism by providing natural resources to the home country, which reduced its reliance on imported goods.

21. What developments do you think led to the decline of cottage industries?

Answers may vary, but students should recognize that industrialization was an important factor leading to the decline of cottage industries.

22. How did European mercantilism deprive Africa and Latin America of wealth?

The practice of European mercantilism meant that valuable raw materials were taken from Africa and the Americas and shipped to Europe.

23. How did European colonization affect African populations?

Colonization robbed West Africa of population and workforce and left West African kingdoms vulnerable to attacks and conquest.

24. How did industrialization increase wealth disparity?

Industrialization made cheap, factory-made products widely available. Revenue from those products flowed to Europe and the United States instead of to the people and the regions that produced them.

25. Why is Coca-Cola considered a multinational corporation?

Coca-Cola is considered a multinational corporation because it manufactures,

distributes, and advertises in many different countries around the world.

Unit quiz key

1. a 2. d 3. b 4. b 5. b 6. d 7. a 8. a 9. a 10. d 11. d 12. c 13. b 14. d 15. c