Name: _____ Date: _____

How Landlocked Countries Reach the Sea

Circle group

A landlocked country has no coast of its own. Switzerland, Paraguay, Mongolia, Ethiopia, and Nepal are examples. There are more than forty in the world. Being far from the sea is a problem. Most goods that cross the world go by ship.

A landlocked country gets help from its neighbors. A truck may drive across another country to a harbor, where a cargo ship waits. So the country must agree with its neighbors about roads, borders, and fees. A delay at a border makes goods slower and cost more.

Rivers can help. Paraguay has no ocean shore, but barges can carry soybeans and other cargo down its rivers to the Atlantic Ocean. Switzerland sends goods on the Rhine River, where barges take them toward ports in the Netherlands. Countries also build railways and pipelines across borders. Some rent space at a neighbor's port.

Some landlocked countries use planes. Their goods are light and worth a lot, like watches, medicines, and fine tools. These are easy to fly. Whatever the way, the key is to work well with the countries in between.

Questions

1. What is a landlocked country?

_____

_____

2. Which two landlocked countries from the passage can you name?

_____

_____

3. How can Paraguay's cargo reach the Atlantic Ocean?

_____

_____

4. Why must landlocked countries agree with their neighbors?

_____

_____

5. Why are watches and medicines good to send by air?

_____

_____

6. What is the key to success for a landlocked country?

_____

_____

Words to know

landlocked: surrounded by land with no coast
cargo: goods carried by a ship, truck, or plane
barges: long, flat boats used to haul heavy goods
pipelines: long tubes that carry oil, gas, or water

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Landlocked Countries Reach the Sea

Triangle group

A landlocked country is one with no coastline of its own. Switzerland, Paraguay, Mongolia, Ethiopia, and Nepal are all examples. Together there are more than forty of them around the world. Being far from the sea creates a problem, because most goods that travel between continents go by ship.

A landlocked country solves the problem with the help of its neighbors. A truck loaded with goods may drive across another country to a harbor, where a cargo ship waits. This means the country must agree with its neighbors about roads, borders, and fees. Delays at any border can make products slower and more costly.

Rivers can help. Paraguay has no ocean shore, but barges can carry soybeans and other cargo down its rivers to the Atlantic Ocean. Switzerland sends goods along the Rhine River, where barges move them toward ports in the Netherlands. Countries also build railways and pipelines across borders and sometimes rent space at a neighbor's port.

Some landlocked countries have another way to join the world. Their airports connect them to far-off places, and their products are light and valuable enough to fly, such as watches, medicines, or fine tools. Whatever the route, the key to success is good cooperation with the countries in between.

Questions

1. What is a landlocked country?

_____

_____

2. Which two landlocked countries from the passage can you name?

_____

_____

3. How can Paraguay's cargo reach the Atlantic Ocean?

_____

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4. Why must landlocked countries agree with their neighbors?

_____

_____

5. Why are watches and medicines good products to send by air?

_____

_____

6. What is the key to success for a landlocked country?

_____

_____

Words to know

landlocked: surrounded by land with no coast
cargo: goods carried by a ship, truck, or plane
barges: long, flat boats used to haul heavy goods
pipelines: long tubes that carry oil, gas, or water
cooperation: working together toward the same goal

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Landlocked Countries Reach the Sea

Square group

A landlocked country is one that possesses no coastline of its own, and examples include Switzerland, Paraguay, Mongolia, Ethiopia, and Nepal. More than forty such countries exist around the world. Distance from the sea creates a genuine difficulty, because the bulk of the goods that travel between continents moves aboard ships.

A landlocked country overcomes this obstacle with the assistance of its neighbors. A truck loaded with merchandise may drive across a neighboring country to a harbor, where a cargo ship is waiting. This arrangement requires agreements about roads, borders, and fees, and a delay at any single border can make products slower to arrive and more expensive to buy.

Rivers can provide relief. Although Paraguay has no ocean shore, barges can carry soybeans and other cargo down its rivers all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. Switzerland ships goods along the Rhine River, where barges transport them toward ports in the Netherlands. Countries also construct railways and pipelines that cross borders, and some rent storage space at a neighbor's port.

A few landlocked nations rely on yet another connection to the wider world. Their airports link them with distant places, and their exports are light and valuable enough to be flown, such as watches, medicines, and precision tools. Whichever route a country chooses, the secret to success is strong cooperation with the countries in between.

Questions

1. What is a landlocked country?

_____

_____

2. Which two landlocked countries from the passage can you name?

_____

_____

3. How can cargo from Paraguay reach the Atlantic Ocean?

_____

_____

4. Why must landlocked countries make agreements with their neighbors?

_____

_____

5. Why are watches and medicines well suited to air travel?

_____

_____

6. What is the secret to success for a landlocked country?

_____

_____

Words to know

landlocked: surrounded by land with no coast
cargo: goods carried by a ship, truck, or plane
barges: long, flat boats used to haul heavy goods
pipelines: long tubes that carry oil, gas, or water
cooperation: working together toward the same goal

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How Landlocked Countries Reach the Sea

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How Landlocked Countries Reach the Sea

Easier · 181 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. A country with no coast of its own.
2. Any two of Switzerland, Paraguay, Mongolia, Ethiopia, and Nepal.
3. Barges carry it down the rivers.
4. Goods cross neighboring land, so roads, borders, and fees must be settled.
5. They are light and worth a lot, so flying them makes sense.
6. To work well with the countries in between.

Triangle: How Landlocked Countries Reach the Sea

This passage · 209 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.6

1. A country with no coastline of its own.
2. Any two of Switzerland, Paraguay, Mongolia, Ethiopia, and Nepal.
3. Barges carry it down the rivers.
4. Goods must cross neighboring land, so roads, borders, and fees have to be settled.
5. They are light and valuable, so flying them is worth the cost.
6. Good cooperation with the countries in between.

Square: How Landlocked Countries Reach the Sea

Harder · 226 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 10.3

1. A country that has no coastline of its own.
2. Any two of Switzerland, Paraguay, Mongolia, Ethiopia, and Nepal.
3. Barges carry it down the rivers.
4. Their goods must cross neighboring land, so roads, borders, and fees need to be settled.
5. They are light and valuable enough that flying them is worth the cost.
6. Strong cooperation with the countries in between.