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Social Studies

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Goods *and* Services

by Megan Litwin

Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main Idea• Sequence• Text Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diagrams• Headings• Glossary

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Goods *and* Services

by Megan Litwin



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What are goods?

Take a look around your home. It is probably full of things. You may have food in your kitchen, a tub in your bathroom, and a backpack. These things are all called **goods**. Goods are things that can be bought or sold.

Making goods takes **teamwork**. Some people work together to make goods. Then other people work together to bring goods to stores. People buy goods and bring them home.

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Where do goods come from?

Fruit and furniture are examples of goods. Where does the fruit you eat come from? Fruit is sold in food stores. Before it was brought to the store, farmers grew the fruit on a farm. Then workers washed it, packaged it, and shipped it to stores. Finally someone bought it and it came to you!

The furniture in your house may have been bought from a furniture store, but the furniture had to come from somewhere first.

Trees



Boards

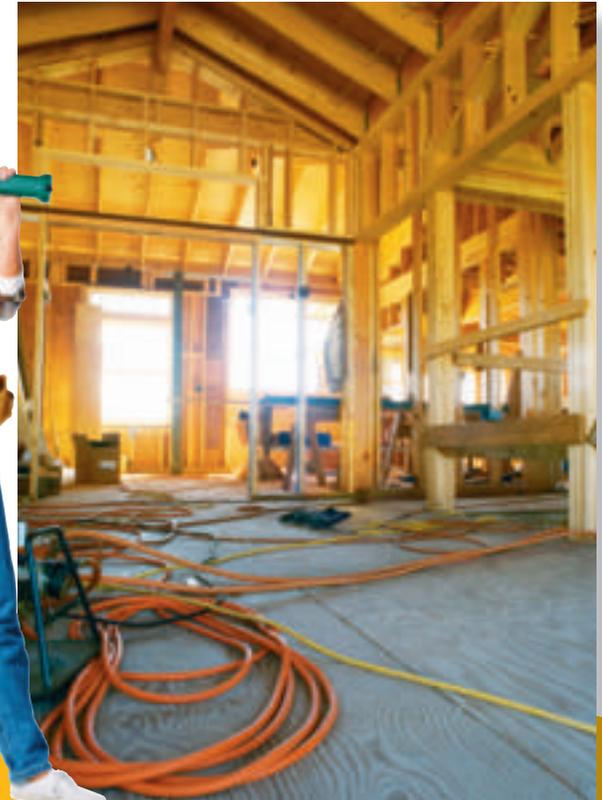
Shelves



People who are trained to make things out of wood are called carpenters. Some carpenters build furniture, and some build whole houses!

People who grow or make goods are called **producers**. People who buy the goods are called **consumers**. In a **community**, producers and consumers need each other.

Let's take a closer look at some examples of producers and consumers helping each other in a community.



Producers and Consumers

Do you like bread? If you buy and eat bread, you are a consumer. Where does your bread come from?

One place where you could get bread is a bakery. Goods that come from a bakery are called baked goods. A baker is someone who makes baked goods to sell to other people.

A baker is a producer of bread.



 Mix the dough

 Bake the bread



 The baker and the community need each other. How does a baker work with other people in the community? Let's find out.

Today is Sarah's birthday. Sarah needs the baker to produce banana bread so she can have a birthday treat. The baker needs Sarah to buy his goods. If people did not buy the baker's goods, he might have to close his store.

Bakeries and other stores need consumers to buy their goods.

 Sell at a bakery





It is not quite that simple, though. Let's think back to that banana bread. It contained many ingredients. The baker needed a supply of bananas, flour, and butter in order to bake it. Where did those things come from?

The baker did not have time to grow the bananas or to make the flour and butter. The baker had to buy those ingredients. When he bought those ingredients, *he* was the consumer. The baker had to be a consumer before he could be a producer.



Ingredients from many producers are needed to make banana bread.





There are many other types of goods that we need. Food, clothing, and furniture are all examples of goods that we buy. We also buy goods such as toys, books, and toothpaste.

Every time you buy something, you are a consumer. The money you spend helps the producer create more goods to sell.

Kids can sometimes be producers too. Have you ever had a lemonade stand? When you make lemonade to sell, you are the producer. The people who buy your lemonade are consumers.



Have you ever sold lemonade at a lemonade stand?





What are services?

Sometimes, instead of needing things, we need someone to do a job or help us get something done. If you need a haircut, you might go to a hairdresser or a barber. If your parents are going out for the evening, they might call a babysitter to take care of you while they are gone. When someone does a job for others, that is called a **service**.

Goods and services are similar. The people who provide services are also producers. The people who pay for their services are consumers.



Let's look at an example. Timothy needs to have his hair cut. He goes to the barber. The barber cuts Timothy's hair. Timothy pays the barber money for that service. Timothy is the consumer. He is paying for the services of the barber. The barber is the producer. He is selling the service of cutting hair.



 The barber needs many tools to do his job. He needs scissors, shampoo, towels, and chairs. He must buy those goods so he can provide his service. When the barber buys tools, he is a consumer. He needs other people to make, or produce, those tools. Many people work to provide goods to the community.

 The barber buys these tools from other producers.



 Many people also provide services to the community. Some services, such as the services of teachers, firefighters, and police officers, are paid for by the local government.

When a car needs to be fixed, you might go to an auto mechanic for repair service. Doctors, the phone company, and bus drivers all offer services. Can you think of other examples?

 This woman is a mechanic who services the community by fixing cars.



 All the people in a community need each other. Sarah needs the baker to make her banana bread. The baker needs farmers and other producers to grow and sell the bananas for that bread.

Timothy needs the barber to get his hair cut. The barber needs to buy special tools from other producers before he can provide his service.

 Each producer is **responsible** for doing a good job. Because producers and consumers need each other, when goods or services are not done well, many people are affected. Consumers have a choice. They want to buy the best goods and services they can find and pay for. If producers do their best work, they make the whole community better.





Now Try This

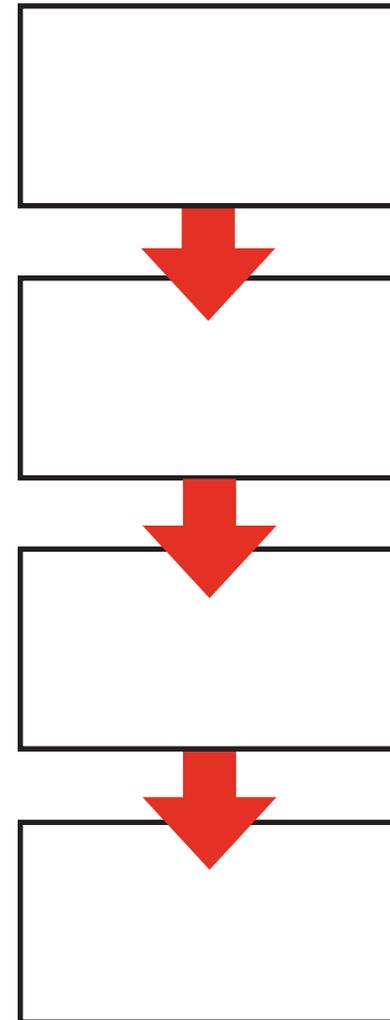
Think about goods that you buy or consume. Choose one and think about all the people who work together to produce it.

You may need to research where it comes from. Many goods in the United States depend on the work of producers in other countries.



Here's How to Do It!

Make a chart like the one below. In the boxes record the producers who worked on making the goods you buy.





Glossary

community *n.* a group of people living and working together.

consumers *n.* people who buy goods and services.

goods *n.* things that can be bought or sold.

producers *n.* people who grow, make, or create something to sell.

responsible *adj.* expected to take care of someone or something.

service *n.* a job that someone does for others.

teamwork *n.* the combined action of a group of people that makes the work of the group successful.



Reader Response

1. What is the main idea of this book?
2. You read about Sarah and the baker on pages 7 and 9. List the steps that the baker had to follow in order to sell the banana bread to Sarah. Use a chart like the one below to help you organize your ideas.

↓
↓

3. List five different kinds of services you or your family buy.
4. Where in the book would you find the meaning of the word *responsible*?

