

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Reasons and Evidence

Read the short story and answer each question.



Should We Buy Clothes Made in Other Countries?

Walk into almost any clothing store, and you'll find shirts, shoes, and jeans with tags that say "Made in China," "Made in Bangladesh," or "Made in Vietnam." Today, many of the clothes sold in the United States are made in factories far away. But should we buy them?

One reason people support buying imported clothes is that they're more affordable. Making products in countries with lower labor costs allows companies to sell them for less. This helps families save money—especially when children grow quickly and need new sizes often.

Another reason is global cooperation. Buying clothes made abroad creates jobs in other countries and builds trade relationships between nations. Supporters say this helps people in poorer countries earn a living and supports the global economy.

But critics argue that many overseas factories don't treat workers fairly. Some workers earn very low wages and work long hours in unsafe conditions. According to the Clean Clothes Campaign, millions of garment workers live in poverty despite working full-time. These critics believe that buying such clothing supports unfair labor practices.

Others say buying local is better. Clothing made in the U.S. may cost more, but it often follows stricter labor laws and environmental regulations. Buying local also supports small businesses and reduces pollution from shipping goods long distances.

This debate doesn't have a simple answer. Should we focus on low prices and global trade, or fair labor and local jobs? Being informed about where and how our clothes are made helps us make smarter, more ethical choices.



Name: _____

Should We Buy Clothes Made in Other Countries?

1. What is one reason people support buying clothes made in other countries?

- A. It guarantees fair pay for all workers.
- B. It supports global trade and lower prices.
- C. It reduces pollution and shipping.
- D. It protects American-made brands.

2. What evidence is used to support concerns about unfair labor?

- A. Many companies raise their prices unfairly.
- B. People buy clothes without reading tags.
- C. The Clean Clothes Campaign reports workers earn very low wages.
- D. Children grow quickly and need affordable clothes.

3. Fill in the blank:

Supporters of local clothing say it helps reduce _____ caused by shipping goods long distances.

4. What are two reasons people might avoid buying clothing made in other countries? How does the author support these points?

5. What does the article suggest we consider when deciding what clothes to buy, and why does that matter?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: V

Lexile Level: 950L–1100L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Persuasive Informational Text / Economics & Ethics

Introducing the Text

“Today we’ll read about where our clothes come from—and whether buying items made in other countries is the right choice. As we read, we’ll look closely at the author’s points and how reasons and evidence support each side of this global issue.”

Vocabulary: imported, labor, economy, ethical, pollution

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Do you ever check where your clothes are made? Why or why not?
 2. Why do you think many products come from other countries?
 3. What makes a purchase “smart” or “ethical” in your opinion?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are the benefits of buying clothes made overseas?
 2. What concerns are raised about factories in other countries?
 3. How does the author support the idea that buying locally is better for the environment?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Which side of the argument do you agree with more, and why?
 2. Do you think your buying choices can make a difference?
 3. How could you learn more about where your clothes come from?
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Activity Idea

Ask students to bring in or describe one article of clothing and look at the tag together as a class. Then, they’ll research that country’s labor laws or working conditions using kid-safe resources. Finally, they’ll write a short “clothing fact sheet” summarizing what they learned.

