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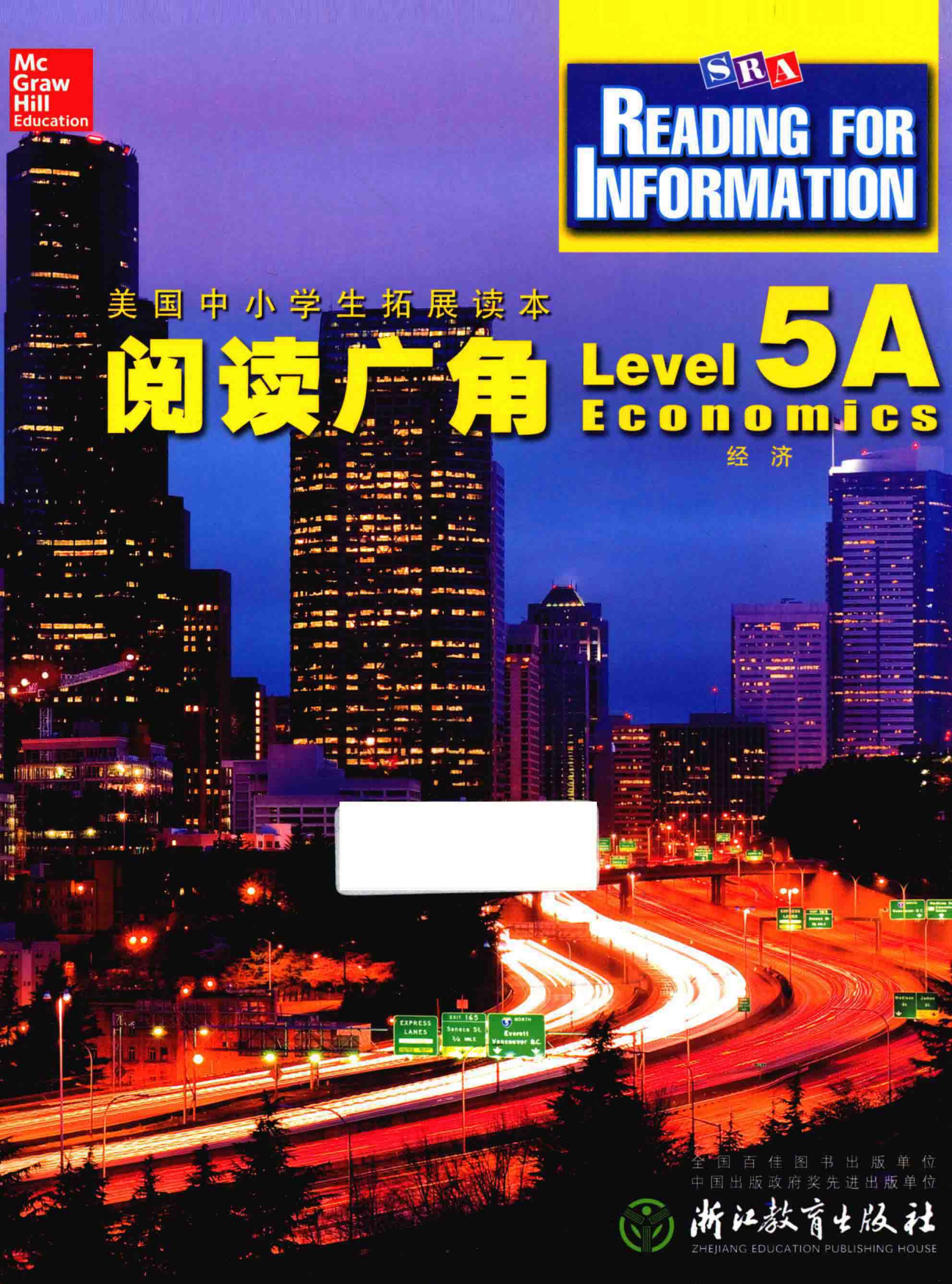
SRA
**READING FOR
INFORMATION**

美国中小學生拓展读本

阅读广角

**Level 5A
Economics**

经济



全国百佳图书出版单位
中国出版政府奖先进出版单位



浙江教育出版社
ZHEJIANG EDUCATION PUBLISHING HOUSE



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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

阅读广角 = Reading for information level. 5A /
美国麦格劳希尔教育编. -- 杭州: 浙江教育出版社,
2014. 10
ISBN 978-7-5536-2370-2

I. ①阅… II. ①美… III. ①英语—阅读教学—小学—
—课外读物 IV. ①G624.313

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2014)第235341号

阅读广角

READING FOR INFORMATION

Level 5A

出版发行 浙江教育出版社(杭州市天目山路40号 邮编 310013)

原著名 Reading For Information

原出版 McGraw-Hill Education

责任编辑 彭宁

封面设计 韩波

责任校对 杨艳

责任印务 温劲风

图文制作 君红阅读(北京)出版咨询有限公司

印刷 浙江新华数码印务有限公司

开本 787mm×960mm 1/16

印张 6

字数 60 000

版次 2014年10月第1版

印次 2014年10月第1次印刷

印数 0 001-5 000

标准书号 ISBN 978-7-5536-2370-2

定价 15.00元

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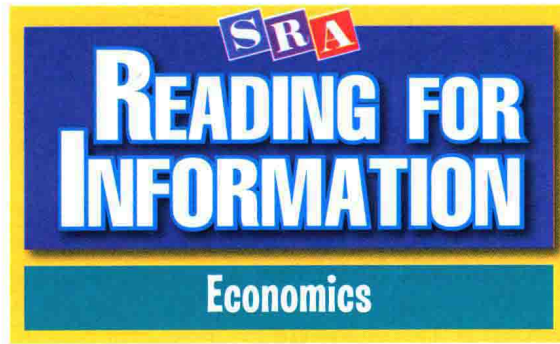




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SRA ECONOMICS

Changing Economies



Before You Read

Here are some things you can do to help you read for information.

Features **Tables and Maps**

Tables organize information into rows and columns. Tables can show information about almost anything, including how much things cost, the population in an area, or the different kinds of stores in a city.

Look at the tables on pages 16 and 25. What kind of information does each give?

Maps are visual representations of specific areas. Maps can show different kinds of information. Some maps show roads and how to travel from one place to another. Other maps show geographic features of land or how high land is above sea level.



The **scale** tells what the lengths on the map are equal to in real-life distances.

The **compass rose** shows ordinal directions on a map.

Most maps have a **legend** that shows the symbols that stand for cities and roads.

Structures Cause and Effect

- A **cause** is why something happens. An **effect** is what happens.
- A cause might have more than one effect. For example, if Florida has a deep freeze, oranges that are growing might die, and the cost of orange juice might go up.
- An effect might have more than one cause. For example, gas prices rose sharply in 2005 because of increased need, war in the Middle East, and storms that damaged oil refineries.
- As you read, it might be helpful to make a chart to keep track of what happens and why it happens.

Ancient people
invented tools.

Cause

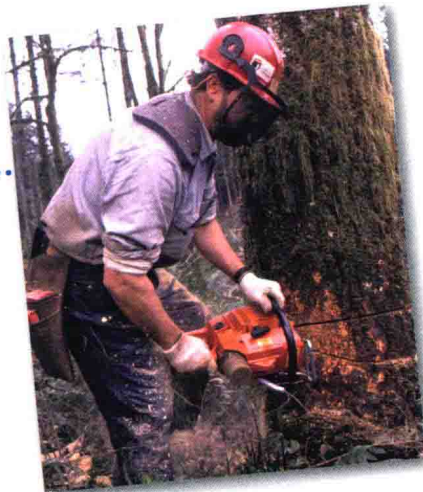
Farming was easier
and there was a
surplus of crops.

Effect



ABC Vocabulary Words to Know

consumption the act of using up



Cutting down trees for wood or paper is an example of **consumption**.



These goods are **exports** from Hong Kong. They will be **imports** to another place.

export to send goods to other countries for sale or use

import to bring in goods from other countries for sale or use

market economy an economy that is controlled only by supply and demand

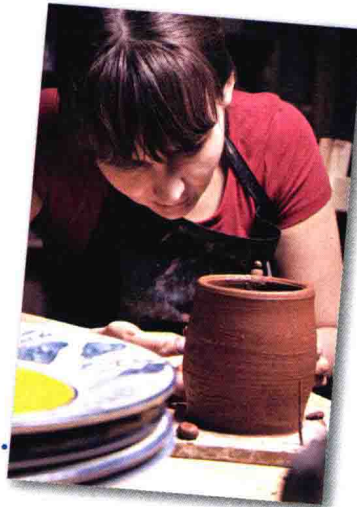


The photo above is an example of a **market economy**. The man is a **merchant**. His customer pays for the supply of fruits that she needs.



merchant a person who buys and sells goods for profit

production the act of making or creating



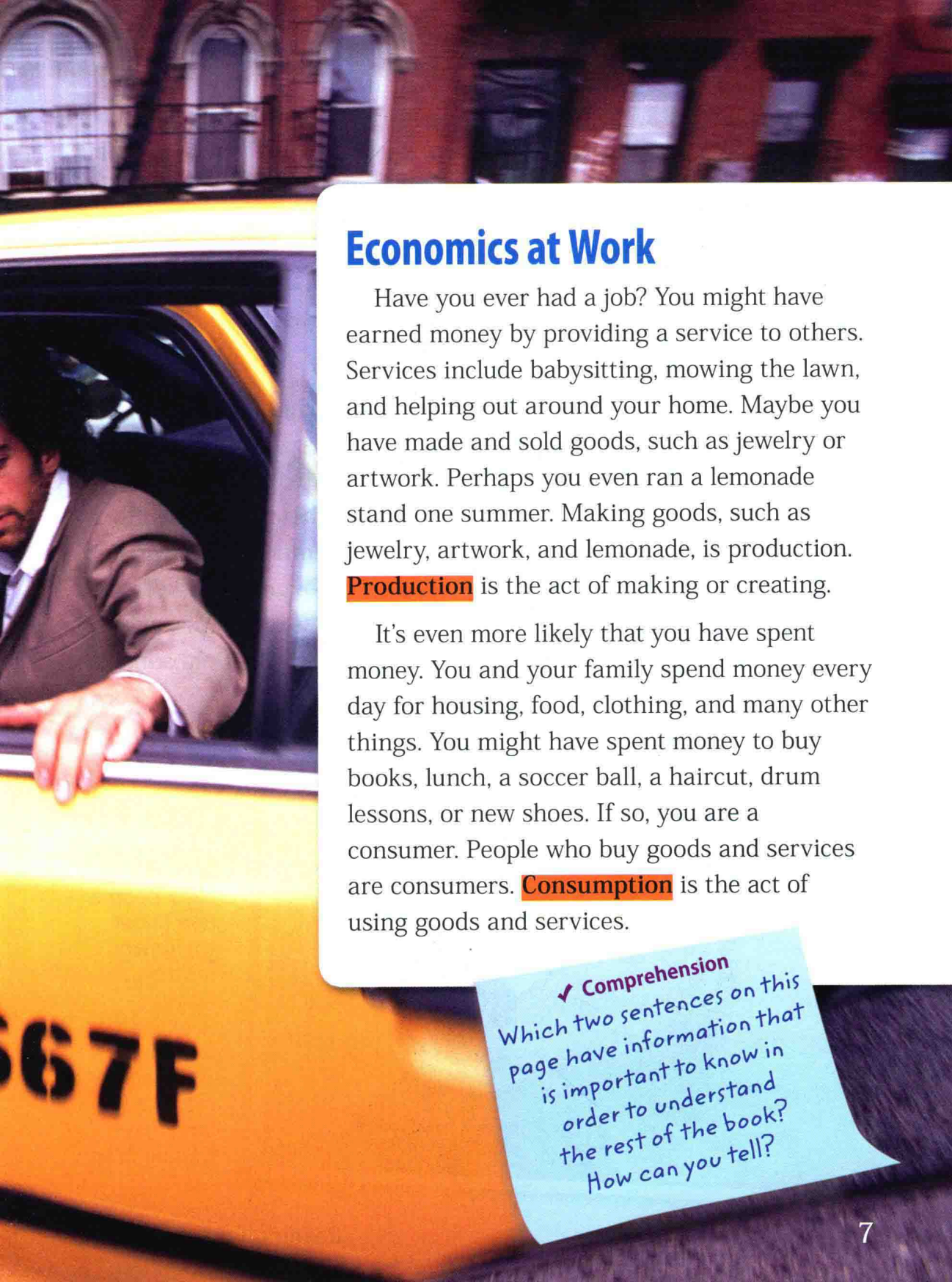
Changing Economies



The Big Question

How does a country's economy affect the people who live there?





Economics at Work

Have you ever had a job? You might have earned money by providing a service to others. Services include babysitting, mowing the lawn, and helping out around your home. Maybe you have made and sold goods, such as jewelry or artwork. Perhaps you even ran a lemonade stand one summer. Making goods, such as jewelry, artwork, and lemonade, is production.

Production is the act of making or creating.

It's even more likely that you have spent money. You and your family spend money every day for housing, food, clothing, and many other things. You might have spent money to buy books, lunch, a soccer ball, a haircut, drum lessons, or new shoes. If so, you are a consumer. People who buy goods and services are consumers. **Consumption** is the act of using goods and services.

✓ Comprehension

Which two sentences on this page have information that is important to know in order to understand the rest of the book? How can you tell?

Economic Systems

All cultures have some form of economic system. Some are simple. Others are much more complex. But every economic system is based upon the answers to the following questions:

- What goods and services should be offered?
- How will goods and services be produced?
- Who will use the goods and services?

What Goods and Services Should Be Offered?

In the beginning of human history, people did what they needed to survive. This means that their economy was based on having adequate food and shelter for themselves. People used the resources that were close at hand. They hunted for food in the mountains or grew crops on the plains. Those who lived near the ocean depended on fish to survive.



Early people had to get their own food by hunting, fishing, or farming. There were no markets for buying or trading food.

Early people made goods specifically to meet their needs for growing crops and building shelter. For example, some people made pottery to aid in cooking. They also made tools and weapons—first from stone and bone, and later from metals that they mined.

Luxury Goods

In time, people began to produce items that were not needed for survival. They made items such as jewelry, statues, and other works of art.

Now, we have many choices for goods and services. Much of what we consume isn't necessary for our survival. These items can be considered luxuries. They might make life more beautiful, more fun, or easier, but we can live without them. What are some goods and services you consume that you *don't* need in order to live?

Some items that ancient people made were for survival. Others were made because they were wanted, not needed.



How Will Goods Be Produced?

In ancient times, people grew crops or made goods by hand. They invented simple machines to help make farming easier. They used tools such as baskets for gathering crops, hoes for breaking up dirt and for killing weeds, sickles for cutting crops, and the *shaduf*, a machine used to get water to crops.

When people settled in one place to farm and developed tools to make work easier, they produced more food. Often times they produced more food than a single family could use. This surplus of food led to increased population and the growth of large cities.

In the eighteenth century, people began using machines to produce goods. The technological advances during this period, which was known as the Industrial Revolution, changed the way goods were produced and the way people lived.



Structures

Cause and Effect

What were two effects of improved farming?



Factory machines could quickly do the work of hundreds of people who worked by hand. However, the harsh conditions in the factories were dangerous for the workers who ran the machines for long periods of time.

Parts of Production

Production is the basis of every economy. Changes in economies have caused production to become more complex.

The earliest farmers might have used sticks to dig up soil for planting. Finding a stick to dig up earth was simple. Today farmers use plows instead of sticks. Producing a modern plow involves far more people, machines, time, and energy than making a stick does.

Even goods that used to be simple to produce now go through a complicated process. The oatmeal you buy at the store is a good example. First, a farmer grew the oats. Next, the oats were milled at a factory. Then, another factory packaged the oatmeal. Finally, the oatmeal was sent to stores to be sold.



The tractor that modern farmers use is far more complex than the simple wooden plow that ancient Egyptian farmers used. *What are the advantages of using a modern tractor instead of a plow? What are the disadvantages?*



✓ **Comprehension**

What is the most important difference between the two kinds of raw materials?

The oats used to produce oatmeal are an example of a raw material. So is the soil in which the seeds were planted.

Raw Materials

One of the most important parts of production is raw materials. These are things found in nature that can be used to make goods. Trees, water, oil, soil, metals, wildlife, and air can all be raw materials.

Some raw materials can be replaced. New plants can be grown. The sun will continue to shine and produce energy every day.

However, there is a limited amount of some raw materials, and we cannot make more. Oil, natural gas, gold, and other metals cannot be replaced. Which of these limited raw materials is most important in your daily life?

**This pumps oil from the ground.
Oil is a limited resource.**

