

HUMAN SOCIETY

GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE (7G)

Nations and cultures are increasingly interconnected through international travel, international economic systems, the mass media, and shared environmental problems. The wealth, security, and general welfare of almost all nations are interconnected, and although global interdependence often has positive effects, not everyone benefits equally.

The map has three strands—*communication and transportation technologies*, *trade*, and *treaties*. In the elementary grades, the focus is on how so many of the things that people use do not come from their families or even from their local communities but from other countries. In the middle grades, the focus is on agreements made between countries to maintain peaceful relationships, to trade with each other, and to manage the global environment. In high school, the focus is on the trade-offs and complications that come with globalization.

NOTES

In the *communication and transportation technologies* strand, benchmarks 7G/M6 and 7G/H5 have been developed to address the increasing role that such technologies play in global interdependence.

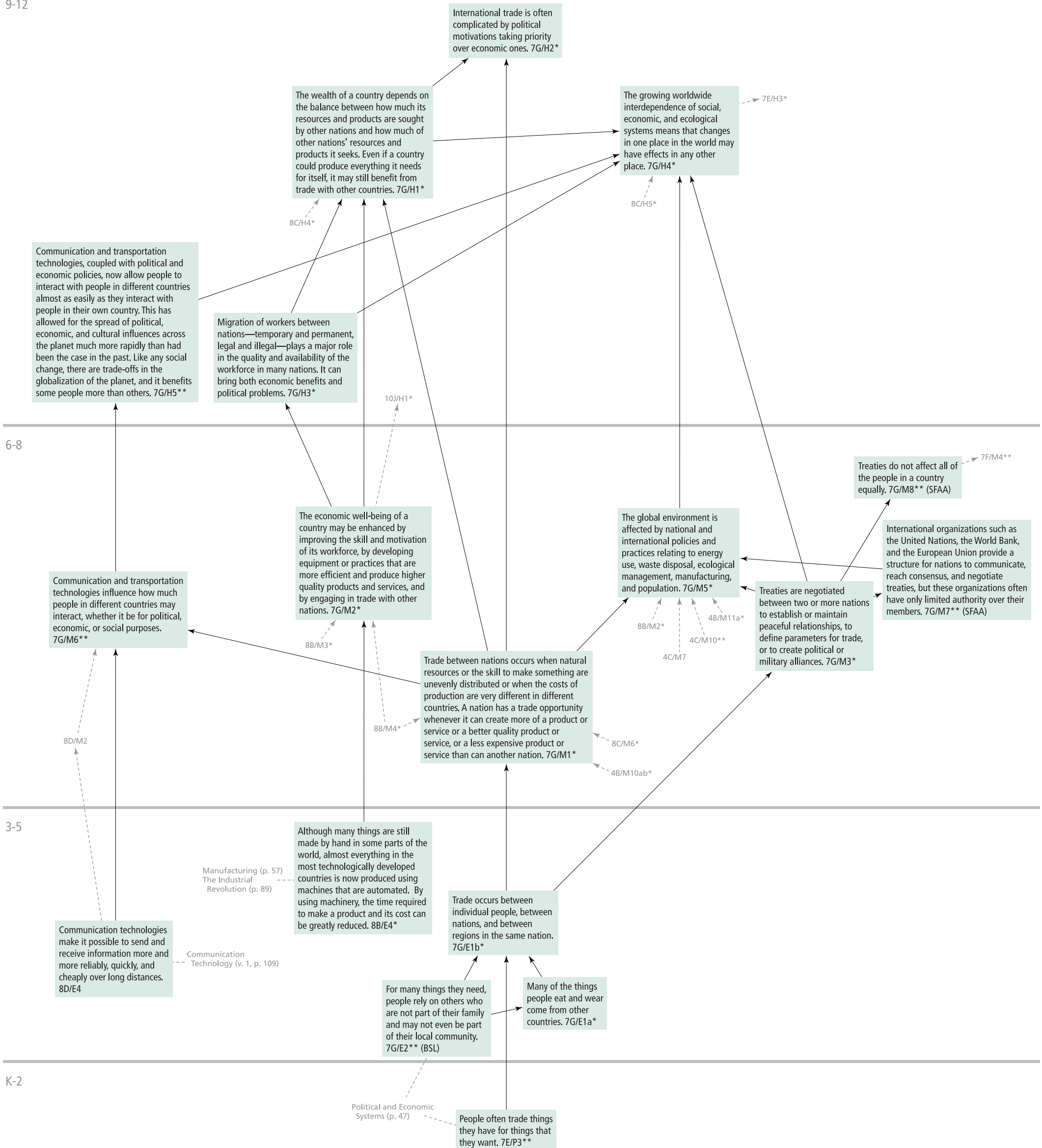
A number of the benchmarks in the *trade* strand have been revised to clarify their meaning and to increase the coherence of the strand. For example, the 6-8 benchmark “Trade between nations...” has been revised to take note of differences in human resources as well as differences in natural resources as important influences on trade between nations.

In the *treaties* strand, the 6-8 benchmark 7G/M7 has been developed to point out the role of international organizations in facilitating relationships among nations. Another new middle-school benchmark introduces the idea that “Treaties do not affect all of the people in a country equally.”

RESEARCH IN BENCHMARKS

Some research suggests that middle-school and high-school students have an understanding of the global nature of trade, although they have only limited understanding about reciprocal benefits from trade (Schug & Lephardt, 1992).

9-12



communication and transportation technologies

trade

treaties