

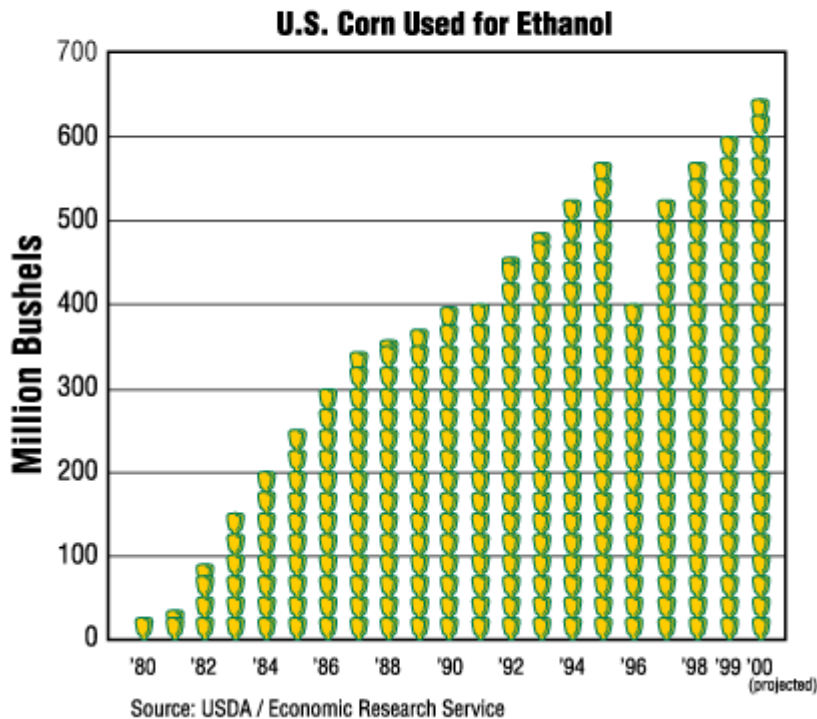
**Social Studies Coalition of Delaware  
Brief Constructed Response**

**Standard: Economics 1a**

**Grade Cluster 6-8**

Ethanol is a renewable fuel made from corn and other agricultural products. In 1982 less than 100 million bushels of corn was produced for the production (use) of ethanol. By the year 2000 over 600 million bushels of corn was being used for the production of ethanol.

*Every bushel of corn can produce  
2.5 gallons of ethanol*



<http://www.nwicc.cc.ia.us/pages/continuing/business/ethanol/Module3.htm>

**Brief Constructed Response Prompt:**

What is a possible cause for the trend that appears in the graph? Explain your answer.

**Sample Answer(s): 3 Examples**

- **Price of gasoline**
- **Depletion of nonrenewable resources**
- **Increase demand for corn by the ethanol industry/consumers**

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**Brief Constructed Response**

**Desired Response(s): 4 Examples**

- **The increase cost of gasoline (energy) has encouraged the use of alternative fuels.**
- **Oil is a nonrenewable but corn is a renewable resource.**
- **There are more ethanol companies wanting the corn to produce ethanol.**
- **There is an increase demand for a clearer burning fuel.**

**Rubric**

**2** = This response gives a valid answer with an accurate and relevant response.

**1** = This response gives a valid answer with an inaccurate, irrelevant, or no response.

**0** = inaccurate or no answer.