

Puzzle: Understanding the Evolution of Supply Chain Management

Question:

Below are different stages of the **evolution of supply chain management (SCM)**. Match each stage with its correct description.

Stages of the Evolution of SCM:

1. **Logistics Management Era**
 2. **Integration Era**
 3. **Supply Chain Management Era**
 4. **Value Chain Era**
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Descriptions:

A. The focus shifts from individual business functions (like logistics, marketing, and procurement) to a unified, end-to-end process across the entire supply chain, with a focus on improving efficiency and reducing costs through cross-functional integration.

B. Businesses began to recognize that their supply chain was a series of interconnected functions, and they started to integrate activities like procurement, production, and distribution to improve operational performance.

C. Supply chain management evolves beyond just logistics to include the management of suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, and customers, emphasizing collaboration and coordination across the entire chain.

D. The focus is on individual functions like transportation, inventory management, and warehousing, where businesses aim to optimize the movement of goods within and between companies.

Answer:

1. **Logistics Management Era** → D. The focus is on individual functions like transportation, inventory management, and warehousing, where businesses aim to optimize the movement of goods within and between companies.
2. **Integration Era** → B. Businesses began to recognize that their supply chain was a series of interconnected functions, and they started to integrate activities like procurement, production, and distribution to improve operational performance.
3. **Supply Chain Management Era** → C. Supply chain management evolves beyond just logistics to include the management of suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, and customers, emphasizing collaboration and coordination across the entire chain.
4. **Value Chain Era** → A. The focus shifts from individual business functions (like logistics, marketing, and procurement) to a unified, end-to-end process across the entire supply chain, with a focus on improving efficiency and reducing costs through cross-functional integration.