Finn’s Global Trading Voyage

Learning objective: To understand the concept of trade, including imports and exports, and how goods travel across the world.

Finn the dolphin is mapping out the supply chain for a local village market. Look at the items below and decide if they are an 'Import' (brought into the UK) or an 'Export' (sent out from the UK). Then, follow the challenge questions to explore how these goods reach us.

Word bank: Import · Export · Supply Chain · Global Trade · Currency · Transport

1. The UK sells high-quality woollen jumpers to shops in France. Is this an import or an export? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

2. A shopkeeper buys bananas from Ecuador for £0.50 each. Why does the price for the customer in the UK become higher than £0.50? Consider the journey the bananas must take. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast: What is the main difference between a country being 'self-sufficient' (making everything it needs) and a country that relies on global trade? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If a country suddenly stopped all trade with the rest of the world, what might happen to the variety of food available in our supermarkets? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if the cost of fuel for cargo ships and aeroplanes increases significantly? How would this affect the price of your favourite imported snacks? (2 marks)

6. Imagine you are a trader. Create a list of three items produced in your local area that you would choose to 'export' to another country, and explain why they would be popular there. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the world. Choose one item (like a toy, a fruit, or a piece of clothing) and draw an arrow showing its journey from the country where it was made to your home in the UK.

Extension challenge: Research a common item in your kitchen cupboard. Find out which country it was imported from. Write a short paragraph explaining why that specific country is a good place to produce that item (think about climate or natural resources).