Exploring Global Trade with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the concepts of imports and exports, and how global trade links different countries across the world.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of geography and the information provided in your lessons to answer the questions. Remember to think about how goods travel around the world.

Finn the dolphin has been busy mapping the oceans. He has noticed that massive ships are constantly traveling between continents, carrying goods like electronics, clothing, fruit, and fuel. When a country sells goods to another country, it is called an export. When a country buys goods from another country, it is called an import. This exchange of goods and services is known as trade.

Word bank: Import · Export · Trade · Economy · Globalisation · Container ship · Supply chain

1. Finn spots a ship leaving the UK carrying British-made cars to be sold in Australia. Is this an import or an export for the UK? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

2. If a supermarket in the UK buys bananas from a farmer in a different country, why is this classified as an import? (2 marks)

3. List two reasons why a country might need to trade with other nations rather than producing everything they need themselves. (2 marks)

4. Imagine a pair of trainers costs £60. If the raw materials cost £15, the labor costs £10, and the transport costs £5, how much profit is made? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

5. Why do you think most international trade is carried out by sea on large container ships rather than by aeroplane? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the world and use arrows to show two different trade routes. Label one arrow 'Import' and the other 'Export', and draw a small ship on one of the routes.

Extension challenge: Research one product you have at home (e.g., a piece of fruit or an item of clothing). Find out which country it was produced in and write a short paragraph explaining the journey it might have taken to reach your local store.