Finn’s Global Trading Voyage

Learning objective: To understand the concept of international trade, imports, and exports, and how goods move across the globe.

Finn the dolphin is tracking cargo ships as they travel across the oceans. Look at the list of goods below. Decide whether each item is an 'Import' (brought into the UK) or an 'Export' (sent out from the UK to other countries). Match the item to its correct category and explain your reasoning based on the UK’s climate and industrial strengths.

Word bank: Bananas · Luxury Sports Cars · Coffee Beans · Pharmaceuticals · Fresh Flowers · Precision Machinery · Tropical Spices · Aerospace Components

1. Choose one item from the word bank that the UK must import. Explain why the UK cannot easily produce this item locally. (2 marks)

2. Justify why the UK is a major exporter of 'Aerospace Components' and 'Pharmaceuticals' rather than raw agricultural products. (2 marks)

3. If a sudden storm closed a major shipping port, what might happen to the price of imported goods like bananas in a local shop? Use the term 'supply' in your answer. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the impact of trading high-value goods (like machinery) versus low-value bulk goods on a country's economy. (2 marks)

5. Explain why it is often cheaper to import goods from halfway across the world than to produce them domestically. (2 marks)

6. What might happen if the UK decided to stop all international trade for one month? Describe the effect on your local supermarket. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the world. Use arrows to show Finn the dolphin swimming alongside a cargo ship carrying 'Precision Machinery' from the UK to a destination in Asia, and another ship bringing 'Coffee Beans' back to the UK.

Extension challenge: Research a 'Fair Trade' product. Write a persuasive paragraph explaining why consumers should consider the origin of their goods and the wages of the workers who produced them.