

Finn's Global Trade Investigation: Mapping Our Supplies

Learning objective: To understand the process of global trade and the movement of goods around the world.

Join Finn the dolphin on a voyage to understand how products reach our shops. Choose one item you use at home (such as a banana, a cotton T-shirt, or a mobile phone). Research where the raw materials were sourced and how the finished product travelled to the United Kingdom. Use the sections below to track the journey of your chosen item.

Word bank: Export · Import · Globalisation · Supply chain · Raw materials · Distribution · Currency · Consumer

1. The Journey Begins: Identify the item you have chosen. Where were the raw materials originally produced, and why was this specific country chosen for its production? (3 marks)

2. The Trade Route: Explain the method of transport used to move this item from its origin to the UK. Justify why this method of transport was chosen over others. (4 marks)

3. Economic Value: If this item costs £5.00 in a shop, explain why the original producer might only receive a small fraction of that price. Where does the rest of the money go? (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare the journey of your chosen item with a locally sourced product, such as a vegetable grown on a nearby farm. What are the key differences in their supply chains? (4 marks)

5. The Ripple Effect: What might happen to the economy of the producing country if the UK suddenly stopped importing this specific product? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

6. Sustainability Reflection: Considering the environmental impact of global trade, how could a business make this product's supply chain more sustainable for the future? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Trade Map' on a separate sheet of paper. Use arrows to illustrate the journey from the country of origin to the UK. Include labels for the modes of transport (e.g., cargo ship, aeroplane, lorry) and add a small currency symbol (£) near the final retail destination to represent the profit made at each stage of the chain.