

Global Connections: Exploring International Trade

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

Read each question carefully. Use your geographical knowledge of supply chains and trade routes to answer. Finn the dolphin is here to help you navigate these questions about how products reach our shores!

Trade is the exchange of goods and services between countries. When we buy items from abroad, we are importing them; when we sell items to other countries, we are exporting them. This complex process involves transportation by sea, air, and land to move resources and finished products from producers to consumers.

Word bank: Import · Export · Supply Chain · Globalisation · Currency · Distribution · Fair Trade

1. Define the terms 'import' and 'export' using an example of a product that might be traded between the UK and another country. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the UK relies on importing goods like tropical fruit or electronic components rather than producing them locally. (3 marks)

3. Max the monkey is buying a new laptop for £650. If the price of importing the parts increases by 10% due to shipping costs, what is the new price of the laptop? (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the environmental impact of transporting goods by aeroplane versus transporting goods by large container ship. (3 marks)

5. Justify why it is important for countries to maintain strong trade relationships with their international neighbours. (3 marks)

6. What might happen to the price of everyday goods in your local shops if a major global shipping route were suddenly blocked for a month? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the world and use arrows to show a trade route for a product (e.g., bananas from South America to the UK, or tea from India to the UK). Label the mode of transport used, such as a cargo ship or aeroplane.



Extension challenge: Research a product you use every day. Create a 'Life Cycle Map' that shows the country of origin, the method of transport used to get it to the UK, and the steps taken to get it from the port to your local shop. Write a short paragraph evaluating whether this product could be sourced more sustainably.