Global Trade and the Journey of Goods

Learning objective: To understand the concept of trade, including the difference between imports and exports and how products travel around the world.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of geography and trade to answer. Finn the dolphin is helping us track goods across the oceans!

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

1. Finn the dolphin is tracking a ship carrying wool from the UK to another country. Is this an example of an export or an import for the UK? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

2. Many of the bananas we eat in the UK are grown in warmer climates, such as in South America or the Caribbean. Are these bananas considered an import or an export for the UK? Why do we need to trade for these items? (2 marks)

3. Imagine a simple cotton t-shirt. List two different transport methods that might be used to get the raw cotton from a farm to a factory, and then the finished shirt to a shop in your local town. (2 marks)

4. If a toy costs £12.50 to manufacture in a factory and £3.00 to ship to the UK, what is the total cost before the shop adds their own profit? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

5. Why is it important for countries to trade with each other rather than trying to produce everything they need themselves? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the world and use arrows to show a trade route of a product (e.g., cocoa beans or electronics) travelling from the country where it is produced to the UK.

Extension challenge: Research a common item in your kitchen cupboard. Check the label to see which country it was produced in. Write a short paragraph explaining the route you think it took to reach your home.