



## A Lesson on Economic Connections: From Many Places by Maritza Castillo ventura

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 3 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Import, export, discussion, economic connections.

**Lesson Description:** The students will learn how economies around the world are connected. The objective of writing an essay is that they think about the importance of importation and exportation and how these two processes contribute to economic connections among countries around the world. First, students will read the article "Economic Connections: From Many Places." Second, students will complete the Vocabulary Activity. Third, I will take them to the library so students can do some research about the topic and the writing questions. Fourth, they will work on the discussion posts. Fifth, I will explain the essay and provide some class time to work on it.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1b: Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.8: Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

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## Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

**Instructions:** Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

### Economic Connections: From Many Places

by

**Content:** People need many things. In some countries, people can get much of what they need. But they still need to get things from other countries. If you look at the labels of food in the grocery store, it is like a geography lesson. You will find foods that come from many other places. Long ago, people used to just eat what they could grow or find in their own area. Today, people can get foods from all around the world.

Much more than food comes from different countries. For example, in the United States we do not have any rubber trees. Those trees need a warm, hot climate. So we get rubber from other countries. One country that sells rubber is Brazil. So if you have a ball or even an eraser that is made of rubber, it started out on a tree in a warm country. Factories in the United States use rubber to make tires.

When a country gets something from another country, it is an import. In Canada it is too cold to grow lemons. So people in Canada get lemons that come from the United States and other countries. They import the fruit. So if you buy lemonade in Canada, it comes from another country. When a country sells something to an other country it is an export.

Canada has a lot of electricity. Canada has great rivers. People built dams across them. A dam is like a wall. The dam has wheels on it. Those are water wheels. When the water rushes through them, it turns the wheels. The wheels make electricity when they turn. Canada uses electricity to make things.

Some Canadian factories make aluminum. That is a useful metal. It takes a lot of electricity to make it. But the Canadians do not have bauxite. That is an ore. That is something found under the ground. Canadian factories get it from mines. But the mines are not in Canada. They are in Jamaica.

If you have a bicycle, it may be made from aluminum. And it probably has rubber tires. That bicycle may have been made in the United States. But its parts come from other places. That one bicycle may have parts from Brazil, Canada, Jamaica, and the United States.

The same kinds of connections are part of many cars. Long ago, cars were made mostly in the United States. Now cars are made in many countries. But wherever they are made, they have parts from different places.

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## Task 1: Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use each word correctly in a sentence.

**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** export **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In our story the author says that, "one country that sells rubber is Brazil". Brazil exports the rubber to the United States. What does the word export mean?

- A:** When a country sells something to another country.
- B:** When a country gets something for free.
- C:** Things that come from many places.
- D:** An ore that is found underground.

**Question:** Which ones of the sentence below uses the word "export" correctly.

- A:** Please export that plate of food to the kitchen.
  - B:** Brazil exports trees to the United States.
  - C:** Playing basketball is a good example of an export.
  - D:** I want to export these books from Saint Petersburg to Miami.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** geography lesson **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In our story the author says, "when you look at he food labels in the grocery store, it is like a geography lesson." What does "geography lesson" means in this sentence?

- A:** Study of life.
- B:** Study of a human's brain.
- C:** That you can find food that comes from different countries around the world, it means variety.
- D:** Food that is grown only in one country.

**Question:** Which one the sentences uses the word "geography lesson" correctly?

- A:** The students learned about Brazil in the geography lesson.
  - B:** Shopping at the Saturday's market is like taking a geography lesson, there is so much variety.
  - C:** My mom teaches a geography lesson every Monday.
  - D:** The geography lesson about the Americas was not very interesting.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Aluminum **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In our story the author says that, "if you have a bicycle it may be made from aluminum." What does the word "aluminum" mean in this sentence?

- A:** When a country sells something to another country.
- B:** A useful metal that is made in Canadian factories.
- C:** A type of ore.
- D:** When a country buys something from another country.

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "aluminum" correctly?

- A:** I will use aluminum material to build my house.
  - B:** My mom uses Aluminum foil to cover the food.
  - C:** The atomic number of aluminum is 13.
  - D:** It is a good idea to recycle aluminum.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** water wheels **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In our story the author says, "The dam has wheels on it, those are water wheels." What does the phrase "water wheels" mean in the sentence?

- A:** Some large wheels that are part of a damn and make electricity.
- B:** The wheels of the bus.
- C:** When a country sells something to another country.
- D:** A material that conducts electricity.

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the phrase "water wheels" correctly?

- A:** The water wheels make electricity when they turn.
  - B:** I like to sing the song "The Wheels on the Bus"
  - C:** My car has tall water wheels.
  - D:** My son loves to play with his water wheels toys.
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## Task 2: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic. Today's lesson about Economic Connections invites you to explore more about this topic. You will need to do some research in order to answer questions 2 and 3. You can use books, encyclopedias, and the internet as resources to find more information about the topic. We will go to the library tomorrow. I will give you 2 days to complete this homework.

1 - What is the author's purpose for writing this text?

Do you think that the author wrote this text to inform, entertain, or persuade the readers?

Support your answer by citing one sentence from the text.

2 - Think about importation and exportation and how do they impact the economy.

What is the difference between importation and exportation?

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Write about a product that the United States imports from another country and why is this product important for our economy?

3 - What economic model do we have in the United States?

Explain your answer in 3- 5 sentences. Cite any website that you have used.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Writing prompt: Compare and contrast importation and exportation. What are some products that the United States exports? What are some products that United States imports? How do importation and exportation contribute to the success of our economy? Write a 300-500 word essay.?

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