



A Lesson on Economic Connections: From Many Places by Dustin Thomas

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 30 minutes or less

Lesson Keywords: Import, Export, Trade, Economics.

Lesson Description: This lesson will build on the students vocabulary and understanding of product trade between countries. The students will pair up and read the text and answer the questions.

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.RI.5.2: Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

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

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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 of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Geography **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: If you look at the labels of food in the grocery store, it is like a geography lesson. What does the word "geography" mean in this sentence?

- A: Travel
- B: Finance
- C: Science of an area.
- D: Color

Question: Which one of these sentences below uses the word "geography" correctly?

- A: He bought a geography at the store.
- B: the dark geography of the fruit changes with temperature.
- C: The geography can feel heavy in your hand..
- D: The geography is different in this part of the country than it is farther south.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Import **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: When a country gets something from another country, it is an import. What does "import" mean in this Sentence.

- A: A product brought from another country.
- B: A product sent to another country.
- C: An idea from this country.
- D: An idea from outer-space.

Question: Which sentence below uses the work "import" correctly.

- A: The government will import the cars to China.
- B: A big company will hire an import to to make changes to its policy.
- C: The government will import cars from China.
- D: My cousin tried to import me in the pool.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Export **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: When a country sells something to an other country it is an export. What does the word "export" mean in this sentence?

- A: A product brought from another country.
- B: A product sent to another country.
- C: An idea from this country.
- D: An idea from outer-space.

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "export" correctly?

- A: Ford will export many cars to Germany.
- B: Ford will export many cars from Germany.
- C: You cannot get the lights to fully export if they are not kept clean.
- D: My cousin tried to export me in the pool.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Aluminum **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: If you have a bicycle, it may be made from aluminum. What does the word "aluminum" mean in this sentence.

- A: A light-weight type of metal.
- B: A type of rubber.
- C: A type of plastic.
- D: A type of paper.

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

- A: The aluminum was delicious.
- B: The aluminum grows on tress in Brazil.
- C: Ford will aluminum many cars to Germany.
- D: Many soda cans are made from aluminum.

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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.

1 - Import and export.

Why are products imported and exported between countries?

2 - Products made in one country.

If a product has parts made all over the world, why is the finished product considered to be made in a specific country?

3 - Grocery store Geography.

The author says looking at the label of a product in the grocery store is like a geography lesson. What products do you think you use every day come from another part of the world?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: What is the main idea of the reading? What are some points from the reading that supports this? What are some products that you use everyday that are amde from parts all over the world?

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