

Supply Chain

Card sorting activity to encourage research in globalisation.



Beans grown in a large field in Kenya.

Beans are laid out on supermarket shelves.



What happens in between?



Cotton is grown in Egypt.

Shirts ordered on the internet are delivered to people by post.



Supply Chain

This is a sorting activity designed to help understand what is meant by the globalisation of world trade. It looks at the ways in which supply chains have grown. There are picture cards of the supply chains for a small number of items we all use: vegetables, shirts, chairs and bed linen.

The webaddress for this activity is:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/supplychain.pdf>

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There is also currently online a geography activity using picture cards which looks at the different stages of industry

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/takemakesell.pdf>

Collaborative Learning = Oracy in Context
makes challenging curriculum accessible.
improves social relations in the classroom.
provides scaffolding for exploratory talk.

Good for all pupils!
Vital for EAL pupils!

Basic principles:

1. Build on prior knowledge.
2. Move from concrete to abstract.
3. Ensure everyone works with everyone else.
4. Extend social language into curriculum language.
5. Provide motivating ways to go over the same knowledge more than once.

If you can't talk it, you won't be able to write it!

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

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We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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Possible ways in which cards can be used

At the moment there are two versions of the cards which can either be used separately or together. The set without the headings for chairs was inspired by the work of the EIA (Environmental Investigation Agency) which was recently highlighted by an article in the New Yorker Magazine. The supply chain is actually an illegal one, since the wood is stolen in Russia and transported illegally to China and subsequently bought by ASDA/Walmart. See NY and EIA websites for details including some video material. The short supply chain is how most chairs were produced in the UK about a hundred years ago, and the later development and decline of the Buckinghamshire furniture factories fills the gap.

The cards with headings demonstrate some common supply chains, and the RGS educational site encourages pupils studying globalisation to track supply chains using product information and the internet, so this a case of "here is one I prepared earlier!" now see what you can find!

The resource is therefore designed to help all pupils begin to understand and hopefully develop an interest in how products move around the world and why this movement takes place. There are lots of issues for discussion around whether the production of cash crops for sale in the UK has a smaller carbon footprint than the home production on a small scale for farmers' markets. Why is it easier to sell linen from Ireland? Why does cotton cloth from Egypt travel to China before coming here? However, the aim is to produce an activity which is talk and EAL friendly because it is visually stimulating and starts from the particular/the concrete.

I have not touched on is the way in which companies are becoming transnational and the RGS site again suggests tracking the ownership of familiar items e.g. tomato ketchup, brown sauce, trainers etc

Trees are felled in Far Eastern Russia.



Logs are transported by train to Suifenhe in North Eastern China.



Planks are taken by train to Dandong and made into chairs.



Chairs are packed flat and travel in a container to the UK.



Container goes to a large warehouse in central UK.



Chairs are taken to furniture supermarkets in lorries.



People buy chairs and assemble them at home.



A bodger (green wood worker) chops branches and makes chair parts in a wood in the UK.



The green wood chair parts are dried out.



The chair is put together and sold by the bodger to a local customer.



GROWING



Beans grown in a large field in Kenya.

SORTING AND PACKING



Beans are picked and packed in the field.

AIR FREIGHT



Beans are loaded onto a cargo plane.

DISTRIBUTION



Beans are distributed to supermarkets in the UK.

SELLING



Beans are laid out on supermarket shelves.

GROWING



Fruit and veg is grown in a small farm in the UK.

SELLING



The farmer takes the fruit and veg to the nearest farmers' market to sell.

GROWING



Flax is grown in a field in Belgium.

PROCESSING



Flax is cut and allowed to get wet. This breaks down the fibres.

PROCESSING



Flax is spun and woven into linen in Belgium using Italian machinery.

DISTRIBUTION



Linen bedsheets are transported to Ireland.

SELLING



Linen bedsheets are sold on the internet by a company in Ireland and sent out by post.

GROWING



Cotton is grown in Egypt.

PROCESSING



Raw cotton is spun and woven in Egypt.

SEA FREIGHT



Cotton cloth is transported to China by containership.

PROCESSING



Cotton cloth is made into shirts in China.

SEA FREIGHT



Cotton shirts are transported to UK by containership.

DISTRIBUTION



Container goes from the docks to a large warehouse in central UK.

SELLING



People buy shirts in shops, from a catalogue or on the internet.

DISTRIBUTION



Shirts ordered on the internet are delivered to people by post.