

Trade Goods Introduce Me Activity



We are Nutmeg and Mace. We come from the fruit of a tree in the Molucca Islands. Nutmeg is the seed and Mace is the lacy covering called an aril. We are both dried and then ground up to flavour food.

Goods traded by
the East India
Company meet
and find out about
each other.



We are lemons. We are full of Vitamin C. Sailors need to eat us so that they do not get scurvy. This is a disease that makes your gums crack and your teeth fall out.

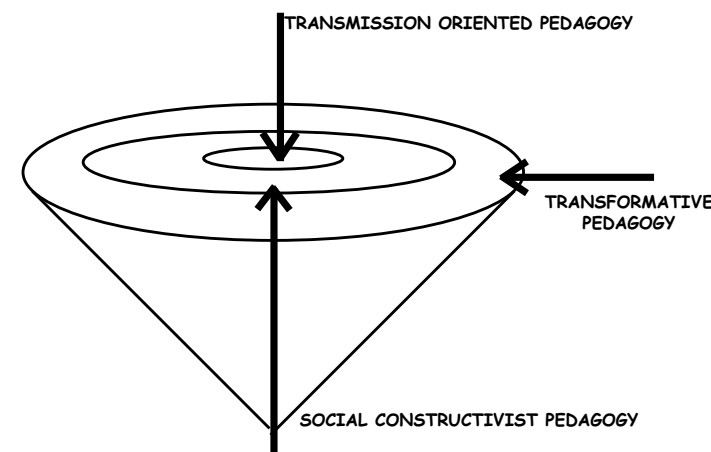
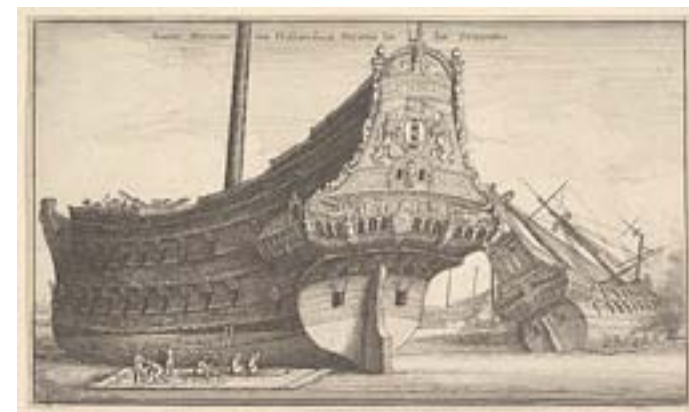
Trade Goods Introduce Me Activity

This is the first of a series of activities we are working on the history of trade, colonialism and empire. It is a curriculum planning example of making a silk purse out of the sow's ear. The ear is the new history curriculum for KS2 with it's emphasis on a vast swathe of chronology combined with a concentration on 'our island story.' Our current Min of Ed, like a broken station clock, is right some of the time. Learners do need some chronological facts in order to understand a story, but they also need some time and opportunity to interrogate these facts and develop alternative hypotheses based on other facts they might discover for themselves later. They also need to work in an educational context where they will feel that what they learn will help to change their lives and the lives of their families. The 'nest of pedagogies' key visual, which has come to me via Jim Cummins (he admits he doesn't know where it originated) illustrates how different views of learning should inform each other and not be in conflict. The facts are in the middle of the 'nest' and the choice of these, of course, are influenced in each country by culture and politics so will vary widely. The skill of developing good dialogue and interaction to question facts is based on the social constructivist pedagogy of Vygotsky so this is the next layer of the nest. The outer layer of the nest is the transformative pedagogy (learning that changes lives) and Paolo Freire is the most powerful thinker here.

Webaddress for this activity is:

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

Last updated 5th August 2015



Trade Goods Introduce Me Activity

Everyone in the class receives a card with information about an item or items traded by the East India Company. Everyone should read the information on their card two or three times. You do not have to remember the card word for word, but try to memorise two or three bits of information. Find **ONE OTHER PERSON** in the room with the same coloured dot on their card as you. In turn introduce yourself as the item on the card to the other person. You can refer to the card if you get stuck, but try to do this without looking at the card as much as possible.

e.g. "Hello! I'm cinnamon. I am the bark of a tree which grows"

When you have both done this go to find another two people with the **same colour dots on their cards** as you. Now you are four, you have to introduce your partner to the others and they have to introduce **each other** to you.

e.g. "Hello! Can I introduce you to my partner He is coffee....."

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East India Company - Trade Goods Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries



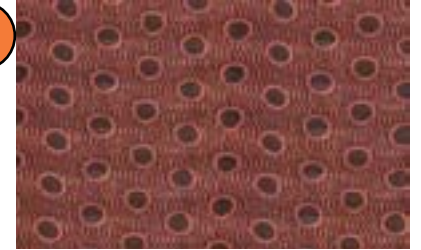
We are Nutmeg and Mace. We come from the fruit of a tree in the Molucca Islands. Nutmeg is the seed and Mace is the lacy covering called an aril. We are both dried and then ground up to flavour food.



I am Potassium Nitrate. My other name is saltpetre. I am dug out of a mines or found in caves. I am purified by boiling and then drying out. I am used for preserving food. I am mixed with charcoal and sulphur to make gunpowder. There is a lot of me in India



We are peppercorns. We grow on a climbing vine in India. We are picked and dried in the sun. We are the world's most popular spice. In 1600 we were worth thirty two thousand times more in Europe than in India.



I am a piece of calico. I am woven from cotton and bleached and dyed. I come from Calicut in south west India. Designs are printed on me with wooden blocks or painted by hand. I am very popular in Europe.



We are Iron Pots. We were made in England and travelled on ships to Africa and India to exchange for other trade goods.



I am an Opium poppy. A sticky fluid comes out of me. This is a drug which can dull pain and has been used in medicine for thousands of years. I grow in India.



I am Coffee. I come originally from Ethiopia and the Yemen. I am a berry from a small tree. I am fermented in water and then dried in the sun. I am then roasted and ground up to mix with hot water to make a very popular drink.



We are pearls. We grew inside shell fish. Divers brought us up to the surface. We are black and green as well as white. We are valuable as jewels. We come from the Arabian sea and Indian ocean.

East India Company - Trade Goods Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries



I am Porcelain. I am made from a very hard clay. I originated in China where I am decorated in many beautiful ways. I am very popular in Europe.



I am Silk. I am woven from the threads of a tiny worm. I was developed in China. For many years the Chinese Emperor kept the secret of silkmaking, but by 1600 it was known in India.



I am Indigo dye. Blue dyes are rare so I am very popular all over the world. I come mainly from India. I contain the same chemical as woad which was used in Britain before the Romans to dye your body.



I am Broadcloth. I come from English sheep and am woven by hand in England. I was carried by English ships to exchange for other trade goods.



I am Cinnamon. I am the dried bark of a tree that grows in southern India. I am valuable as a spice for flavouring food.



We are angels, reals, guineas and Spanish dollars. We are vital for trade because many countries will not exchange trade goods but want gold or silver bullion.



We are dates. We grow on palm trees in the Arabian peninsula. We are popular in Europe for making cakes, biscuits and for flavouring meat.



We are cloves. We are dried flower buds from a tree that grows up to 15 metres. We come from Indonesia. We are used for flavouring food and also to cure toothache.

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I am a hat made of beaver fur from America. The fur was boiled and felted and shaped into a hat.



I am rice. I have been a staple food in India and China for over two thousand years.



I am Muslin. I originally come from Mosul in Iraq. I am a very light cotton material, good for hot climates and also very popular for dresses,



I am the pelt (skin and fur) of the sea otter. I am considered the most luxurious fur in the world. I live mainly in cold seas around Russia and North America.



I am salt. I may look very uninteresting, but I am a very important way of preserving and flavouring food. I mainly come from the sea so people far from the sea need to buy me.



We are lemons. We are full of Vitamin C. Sailors need to eat us so that they do not get scurvy. This is a disease that makes your gums crack and your teeth fall out.



I am ginger. I grow in western parts of Africa and in India. I am used a lot in curry and cakes. You have probably heard of gingerbread. I am also used to make ginger beer.



I am tea. I am the dried and fermented leaf of a camelia plant. I grow in high mountains in China and India. When you transport me by sea you have to be careful to keep me dry.

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 <p>I am saltfish. I can be saltcod from Newfoundland or red herrings from Amsterdam or Yarmouth. I provide winter food for peasants and slaves.</p>	 <p>I am tobacco. I grow in the American colonies. My leaves are dried and used for trading in Europe and Africa.</p>	 <p>We are trade guns. We are made in England. We are not of the best quality but we can be traded in Africa and North America.</p>	 <p>I am rum. I am made from fermented molasses in the Caribbean. Pirates drink me from this bottle and I travel in barrels to Europe.</p>
 <p>We are trading beads. We are made of coloured glass. We are made in Europe and traded in Africa and the East.</p>	 <p>I am molasses. I am made in the Caribbean from crushed and boiled sugarcane. A lot of hot work takes place to make me. I can be further boiled and refined to make sugar.</p>	 <p>I am timber. A lot of me comes from Russia, Norway and Sweden to build ships and houses. Mahogany and ebony wood come from the Caribbean and India for furniture making.</p>	 <p>I am grain. I am barley but there is also rye. We are used for bread and beer. We come from Baltic countries to help feed workers in European towns.</p>