

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, you will think like an international trade specialist and learn how countries trade goods.

Activity

Step 1: Background on International Trade Specialists (5 minutes)

- Show [Video: Embargoes](#).
- As a class, discuss why international trade specialists have to stay up-to-date when an embargo happens. Then, discuss how an international trade specialist advises companies to trade with other countries or companies.

Step 2: Rules to the Game (5 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will be playing a game to learn about how countries trade goods.
- Provide students with [Handout: Rules of the Game](#). As a class, discuss the rules.
- Next, explain to students that it is time to get ready to play the game.
- Divide students into 5 groups. Have each group go to a different part of the classroom. This will be where their country is located.
- Provide each group with a sign from [Handout: Country Signs A-E](#). Each group will need a different sign. The sign should be placed in front of the groups' location. That way, other groups will know what materials the group has.
- Next, provide each group with their materials. See [Handout: Materials for Each Group](#).
- Teacher note: It is very important that each group has the correct supplies that is listed on the handout!

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Step 3: Round 1 (10-15 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now play Round 1. Each group will try to build the tallest tower possible. Groups will have 10 minutes total.
- Tell students to begin working. At any point, students can trade with another country.
- Tell students that at different points during the game, you will loudly announce “International Announcement!” When this happens, everyone should freeze and listen to the teacher’s directions.
- Teacher note: You can also create a flag to wave when you make your announcement. See [Handout: International Announcement Flag](#).
- After the 2 minute mark:
 - Tell students that there is an international announcement!
 - There is an embargo on Country D. No one should trade with this country until further notice. This means that countries can continue building and trading but no one can trade with Country D.
- After the 5 minute mark:
 - Tell students there is another international announcement!
 - The embargo on Country D has been lifted. This means that countries can trade with Country D again.
 - However, there is a new embargo. This embargo is on Country A and Country E. No one can trade with these countries.
- After the 8 minute mark:
 - Tell students there is another international announcement!
 - A war has broken out between Countries C and B. These countries no longer have supplies to build their towers.
 - Teacher- remove all supplies from these groups.
 - The embargoes have also been lifted on Country A and Country E.
 - All other groups can continue trading.

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- After the 10 minute mark:
 - Tell students that there is another international announcement!
 - A tsunami has destroyed half of the tower in Country D.
 - Teacher- remove half of the structure.
 - Time is up. No one can build anymore.
- Wrap Up:
 - Have groups use a ruler and measure how tall their tower is. Determine who the winner is.
 - Then, have a short class discussion on how countries were affected when an embargo occurred. Who was affected? Were students surprised at how some countries were more affected than others?
 - Next, explain to students that there are many barriers to trade besides just embargoes. For example, a war and a natural disaster can affect trade as well. Ask students what challenges they faced when there were both embargoes and other factors that affect trade.

Step 3: Round 2 (10-15 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will play another round. This time, they will build the longest bridge.
- Have students switch groups and switch countries (that way they are trading different materials and working with different students)
- Have students make sure that each country is starting off with the correct supplies based on the handout.
- Tell groups they have 10 minutes to build the longest bridge. Countries can start trading.
- After the 2 minute mark:
 - Make an international announcement that there is an embargo. No countries should trade with Country E.
 - In addition, tell students that there are "political tensions" between Countries A and B. This means these countries will not trade with one another. Explain that political tensions refer to disagreements between two countries that do not result in an official embargo or other type of formal agreement or law.

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International Trade Specialist: Embargoes

- After the 5 minute mark:
 - Tell students that there is another international announcement!
 - The embargo on Country E has been lifted. In addition, Countries A and B can trade even though there are still political tensions.
- After the 8 minute mark:
 - Tell students that there is another international announcement.
 - There is now an embargo on Country C. No one will trade with this country.
 - Also, there is a civil war in Country A. Country A cannot trade with other countries because it will be busy dealing with the civil war.
- After the 10 minute mark:
 - Tell students that the game is now over. Everyone should stop building.
 - Have groups measure how long their bridge is to determine which bridge is the longest.
- Wrap up:
 - As a class, discuss how this round was similar or different from the last round.
 - Next, discuss how multiple countries are affected by barriers to trade (discuss how barriers can include embargoes, political tension, civil wars, or natural disasters).

Materials List

Provided online:

- Video: Embargoes
- Handout: Rules of the Game
- Handout: Country Sign A-E
- Handout: Materials for Each Group
- Handout: International Announcement Flag

Not Provided online:

- Art supplies and building materials for each group (see Handout: Materials for Each Group)
- Ruler for each group

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