

Trade Specialist: Trading Goods

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, students will think like a trade specialist and learn how countries import and export goods.

Activity

Step 1: Background on Trade Specialists (5 minutes)

- Show [Video: Trading Goods](#).
- As a class, discuss that countries must import or bring goods into the country that they don't have. Countries can also export goods to other countries.
- Explain to students that it's important that countries have good relationships with each other so that they can trust one another and trade with one another and have access to other countries goods.

Step 2: Rules to the Game (10 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: Play the Game (15 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now play Round 1. Each group will try to build the longest bridge 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 “Trade 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: Trade Announcement Flag](#).
- After the 5 minute mark:
 - Tell students that there is a trade announcement!
 - Country D tried to steal secret information from country A. 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 7 minute mark:
 - Tell students there is another trade announcement!
 - Countries can trade with Country D again.
 - However, Country A and E signed a secret deal with each other and it angered the other countries. No one can trade with these countries.
- After the 12 minute mark:
 - Tell students there is another trade 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.
 - Country A and Country E can also start trading again.
 - All other groups can continue trading.

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- After the 15 minute mark:
 - Tell students that there is another trade announcement!
 - An earthquake has destroyed half the bridge in Country D.
 - Teacher- remove half of the structure.
 - Time is up. No one can build anymore.

Step 3: Wrap Up and Discussion (15 minutes)

- Wrap Up:
 - Have groups use a ruler and measure the length of their bridge. Determine who the winner is.
 - Then, have a class discussion on how countries were affected by poor relationships with each other. 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 poor relationships. For example, a natural disaster can affect trade as well. Ask students what challenges they faced when there were both poor relationships and other factors that affect trade.

Materials List

Provided online:

- Video: Trading Goods
- Handout: Rules of the Game
- Handout: Country Sign A-E
- Handout: Materials for Each Group
- Handout: Trade Announcement Flag

Not Provided Online (each group needs):

- Art supplies and building materials:
 - 20 popsicle sticks
 - 10 pieces of clay
 - 10 sheets of tinfoil
 - 30 pieces of tape
- Ruler for each group
- Stopwatch to count down the minutes

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