

TRANSPORTATION AND TRADE
(Article from another book)

Name _____
Class Period ____ Assignment #

As you should know by now, natural resources are not evenly distributed throughout the world. From the earliest of times people have exchanged goods and ideas with others. Trading allows people to obtain products that are not available in their own regions, obtain products at a cheaper price, or obtains products of higher quality. Nations today are dependent on one another for resources. Transportation networks make trade possible.

Upon completion of this assignment you should be able to:

- * describe the importance of trade to economic interdependence
- * explain why most trade goods are shipped by water routes

A. Directions: Read the article on transportation and trade cut out from another text book (pp. 78-79). Then answer the following questions:

1. What does interdependent mean?
2. Why have the world's regions become increasingly interdependent?
3. Why are most trade goods shipped between nations transported by water routes?
4. Why is there such a large volume of trade between the Middle East and Europe?

B. Directions: Complete the following chart using different products that you own. For each item, list the product, where it is from and the resources needed to make the product.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PLACE WHERE IT IS FROM</u>	<u>RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT</u>
ex. shirt	Sri Lanka	cotton, plastic
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

C. Did all of the countries have all of the resources needed to make the items? Explain.

MAKING

CONNECTIONS

• WHERE REGIONS MEET •

Transportation and Trade

Regions of the world do not exist in isolation. They are connected to each other in countless ways. For example, they are linked by the movement of people, goods, and ideas from one region to another; by the satellite linkages that transport news and information from one region to another; and even by the clothes that are made in one region and worn by people in another. Regions are also connected to one another by the movement of natural resources.

The shapes, colors, and conditions of the earth can vary tremendously from one place to another. Likewise, the many resources that people use and on which they depend are spread unevenly across the planet. Though one region may enjoy a thousand riches, another may possess key resources necessary for the first to enjoy its wealth.

Because of this uneven distribution of resources, the regions of the world have become increasingly interdependent. Raw materials and manufactured goods are in constant motion between different regions of the earth.

Nations around the world trade what they have for what they do not have in a never-ending cycle.

Transportation Linking the Regions

The movement of goods traded between nations is an enormous and impressive undertaking. Most of these goods are shipped by ocean-going vessels. Such ships can carry a large volume of goods for much less than the cost of air transportation. The map on the following page shows the major ocean transportation routes of the world. Note that the ocean route between the Middle East and Europe carries more tonnage than any other route. Oil tankers use this route to carry shipments from the oil-rich nations of the Middle East to the oil-poor nations of Europe. In turn, freighters follow this route carrying European-made consumer goods to the Middle East. These two regions are regular partners in the trade of their resources. But more than that, each depends on the other for resources.

An Example of Transportation and Trade

Consider the bicycle for another example of how regions are connected by the movement of resources. None of the major bicycle-producing nations—the United States, China, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan—has all the resources necessary to produce bicycles in large numbers.

For example, the United States and Japan lack major deposits of bauxite, the ore used to make aluminum. A number of bicycle parts, such as chainwheels and brakes, are commonly made of aluminum. Both nations must therefore import bauxite in order to make aluminum. In return, the United States and Japan export some of their resources to the bauxite supplier. Many bicycle frames are made from steel, chrome, and molybdenum. Although the United States produces steel and has deposits of molybdenum, it has no chrome. The

areas of the world that have major supplies of chromite include Brazil, Eastern Europe, and Turkey.

Many of the bicycles sold in the United States are produced in another country—perhaps more than one country. Some bicycle manufacturers buy components, such as gear shifts, from Japan and ship them to Taiwan for assembly. The finished bicycles are then shipped to the United States for sale. What ocean routes might a freighter use to deliver bicycles assembled in Taiwan?

The View from the U.S.A.



The manufacture of bicycles is just one example of how trade plays a critical role in United States economy. The United States is the world leader in the value of the goods and services it produces. Its farms and factories produce goods that are in great demand around the world. At the same time, the United States needs resources that are available only from other nations.

TAKING ANOTHER LOOK

1. Why are ocean routes generally used to ship raw materials?
2. How does the example of bicycle production show interdependence? How does it show the importance of transportation?

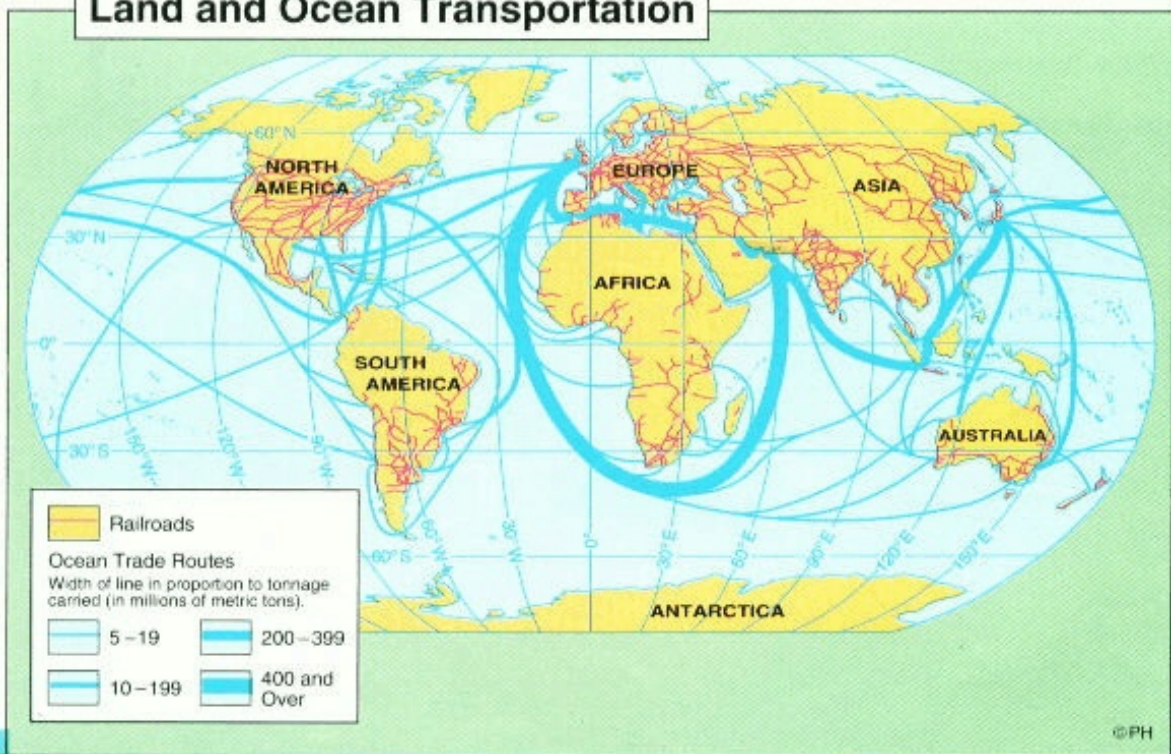
Critical Thinking

3. **Recognizing Cause and Effect** How might a war or natural disaster in one country affect the manufacture of goods in other nations?

Applying Geographic Themes

Movement This map shows major railways as well as shipping routes. Which areas of the world have the most complex rail networks?

Land and Ocean Transportation



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