

Year 6

Economic Activity and Trade

Prior knowledge:

In KS1, you learnt about different types of industry & agriculture currently in our local area. You have learnt about the following geographical vocabulary: agriculture, industry, population, resource, climate.

Geographical skills and fieldwork:

Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

Books, texts, primary and secondary sources you may use:

- Economics for Beginners by Andrew Prentice
- [BBC Bitesize – Economic Activity](#)
- [BBC Bitesize - Trade](#)
- Visit the Tropical House at Birmingham Botanical Gardens to discover how we use some of the resources of the rainforests.
- Visit Cadbury World to discover the journey from cocoa bean to chocolate bar.

National curriculum links:

Human and physical geography:

- Human geography, including economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Vocabulary you will use:

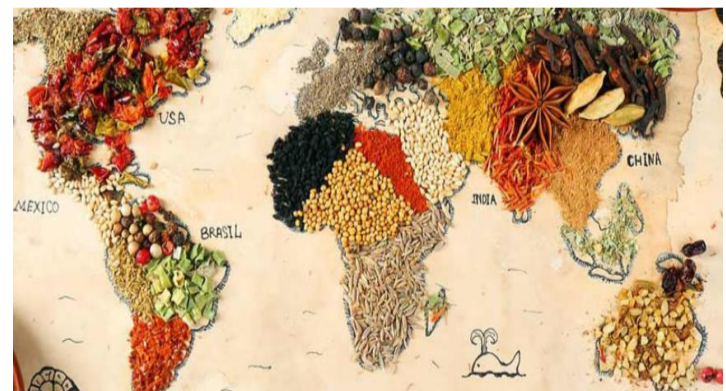
Word	Definition
beverage	Something you drink.
climate	The usual weather conditions in an area
export	To sell goods and services to another country
food miles	How far the food we eat travels from where it is first produced
fossil fuels	A natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms
import	To buy goods and services from another country
international	Between countries
minerals	A solid, naturally occurring inorganic substance
natural	Exists without humans
resources	The things available for people to use
trade	Buying and selling goods and services

Quick Summary



Coffee Beans

The word 'economy' describes how a country or place is doing in producing and making goods, and how much money it has. The amount a country sells and makes is called **economic activity**. Not all countries have suitable conditions for growing food, so they trade with other countries. For example, the United Arab Emirates is a desert, so it needs to import a lot of its food from other countries. Different climates allow different foods to be grown. For example, Colombia has a good climate for growing coffee and the United Kingdom does not. Countries can earn money by exporting food to other countries. Humans and other life forms depend on natural resources to survive. Each resource is found more commonly in some parts of the world than others. Some countries need to import the resources they need, whilst others make money by exporting them.



Click [here](#) to see the journey of a banana or cocoa bean to the UK

Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding

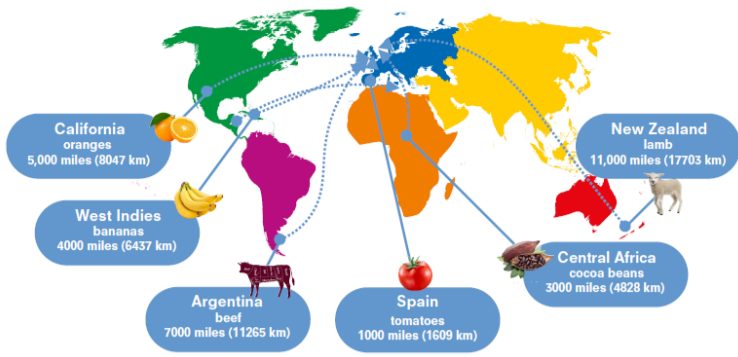
Can you name and locate some of the countries your food comes from?

Describe the way minerals and water are distributed.

Burning fossil fuels is the best way of creating energy. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

Can you explain the difference between import and export?

Food Miles



The map shows some popular imported foods in the UK and their food miles.

Have you ever thought about where your food comes from? How does it get to the supermarket? The term 'food miles' is used to describe how far the food we eat travels before it ends up on our tables. Food trade is essential, but the vehicles that transport the food cause pollution. So, the further our food travels, the greater the pollution.



Banana Plant



Cocoa Pods

Coffee



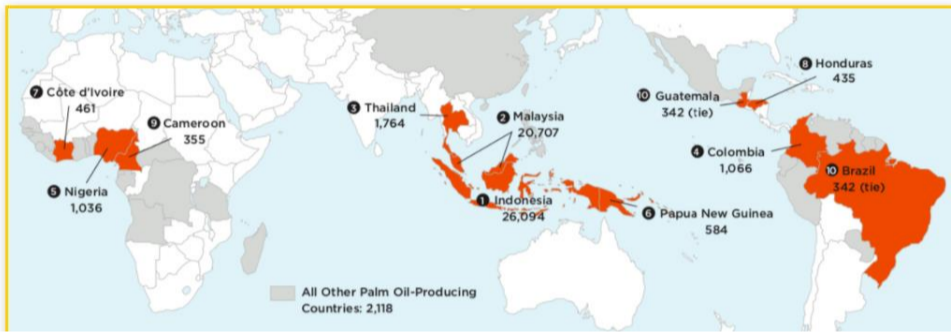
Different climates allow for different types of food to be grown. For example, Colombia has a good climate for growing coffee beans and the United Kingdom does not. The UK has to import coffee.

A Colombian Coffee Plantation



Most of the world's coffee is produced in the 'coffee belt': countries located between the tropics, around the centre of the earth. This is where the climate is particularly suited to growing coffee beans.

Palm Oil



This map shows the top 10 palm oil producing countries in the world.

Palm oil is a type of vegetable oil that comes from the palm fruit. Palm oil trees grow naturally in tropical forests. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are the three biggest palm oil producing countries.

What is palm oil used for? Why is palm oil production an issue?

Palm oil plantation, Indonesia



Oil



When you think of oil, you might imagine petrol or diesel for a car, but oil has so many more uses than fuel for transport, most of which might surprise you.



Oil production in the United Arab Emirates. The Middle East is the world's largest producer of oil.

Oil production rig in the North Sea off the coast of the United Kingdom.



Forests



The forests of the world provide us with many resources: wood, food, paper, medicine, cotton and rubber.



Tropical Rainforests of the World



Countries need to trade for these resources, but it needs to be done in a sustainable way, so that the rainforests are not completely destroyed.



One quarter of the world's medicines come from plants in the rainforest. These include painkillers, drugs used in anaesthetics and cures for cancer.