

Trade

Why do countries trade?

Trade is as old as civilization itself. Before the advent of money, people bartered goods with one another to secure what they could not produce themselves. In trade, one side brings goods or services that it can produce more readily than their trading partner. Pottery, jewelry, metal items and other durable goods are evidence that archaeologists rely on to document the existence of trade among pre-historic peoples.

Influence and Consequences of Trade

The control of trade can be a very significant economic and political factor in the history of a nation. In the late 1200s, Marco Polo traveled over land to Persia (now Iran), then through the Pamir Mountains and the Gobi Desert, to Beijing, China. The book he wrote of his adventures stimulated European interest in trade. Venice merchants became wealthy and used the navy of the city to protect its superiority. Spanish and Portuguese ships set sail for the New World in search of gold and spices but came back with new products like potatoes, sugar and corn that greatly improved European diets. In exchange, they took metal tools and horses that impacted indigenous societies.

For the past several centuries, nations with highly developed manufacturing bases have looked to less developed countries to supply raw materials and to become markets for their products. In the 1700s, Britain and France adopted a policy of mercantilism that sought to protect domestic industries, often at the expense of their colonies. They instituted tariffs on foreign products coming into the country and restricted their colonies from trading with any other nations. This led to global competition for empires. In North America, Britain and France competed for the fur trade along the Great Lakes and the Ohio River valley. In 1763, the British defeated French forces in the battle for Canada and eliminated French influence on the continent. In the United States, the demands for slave labor in the 19th century and in recent times for oil, rubber, foods and metals have greatly influence American foreign policy.

Fair Trade Practices

Sometimes the policies are enforced by military intervention or the support of dictators or the wealthy who permit the practices for the own benefit. Not everyone supports trading practices that put one side at a disadvantage. "Fair trade" rules try to insure that the interests of the producers of the natural resources, often small farmers or factory workers, are protected. Fair trade practices may include demands that the workers who produce the goods receive decent wages and have safe working conditions. The elimination of child labor or sweat shops is often a goal of fair trade negotiations. Those products that follow fair trade practices are allowed to publicize their compliance in the hope the consumers will support their efforts, even if it means the product may cost more than competitors. It is often difficult to enforce fair trade provisions when the source of products is hard to determine. Sometimes consumers prefer the less expensive products despite the manner in which they were produced

Trade in Iowa

Since its first days in the Union, Iowa has been a major exporter of agriculture products. Because of the expense of shipping corn, 19th century farmers converted corn into hogs and shipped meat first by rivers and then by rails. Corn and soybeans are major U.S. exports, especially to Asia. In recent times, disputes over tariffs have been a source of growing tension between the United States and China.

Supporting Questions

Why do countries import and export goods?

- [English Map of the Island of Grenada Updated from the 1763 French Survey, 1780 \(Map\)](#)
- [Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Charles Thomson Estimating Imports to the United States, April 22, 1786 \(Document\)](#)
- [Tax Rates on Common Imports to United States, May 16, 1789 \(Document\)](#)
- [Statement of the Quantity of Spirits, Molasses, Coffee, Cocoa and Sugar from the United States, 1818 \(Document\)](#)
- [Trinidadians Sorting Cocoa Pods, 1900 \(Image\)](#)
- [Drying Cocoa on the Island of Dominica in the West Indies, ca. 1906 \(Image\)](#)

How has the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) impacted the U.S. and Mexico?

- ["Did NAFTA Help Mexico? An Assessment After 20 Years," February 2014 \(Document\)](#)
- ["NAFTA's 'Broken Promises': These Farmers Say They Got The Raw End Of Trade Deal," August 7, 2017 \(Document\)](#)
- ["Why Des Moines and Iowa business leaders support NAFTA," February 7, 2018 \(Document\)](#)
- ["NAFTA Pros and Cons: Why Its Six Advantages Outweigh Its Six Disadvantages" June 25, 2019 \(Document\)](#)
- ["Six Problems with NAFTA," June 25, 2019 \(Document\)](#)

What are fair trade products?

- [Côte d'Ivoire Law Enforcement Rescues Children in Chocolate Industry Forced Labor, June 22, 2015 \(Image\)](#)
- ["Child Labor and Slavery in the Chocolate Industry," 2017 \(Document\)](#)
- [Fair Trade Certified Article about an Indian Factory and Their Use of Community Development Funds, 2018 \(Document\)](#)
- ["Brick by Brick: Rebuilding Public Schools in Côte d'Ivoire," January 23, 2019 \(Document\)](#)
- [Open Letter from a Certified Fair Trade Farm in Amado, Arizona, Date Unknown \(Document\)](#)

[*Printable Image and Document Guide](#)

Additional Resources

Fair Trade Certified

This website provides multiple resources related to "Fair Trade" practices. It includes definitions and examples of companies that are fair trade certified and the impact this has on their community and the global economy. There also is a product feature where the user can search for products to buy that are fair trade certified.

Food Empowerment Project

This website focuses on the work of the Food Empowerment Project, which seeks to create a more just and sustainable world by recognizing the power of one's food choices. The organization encourages healthy food choices that reflect a more compassionate society by spotlighting the abuse of animals on farms, the depletion of natural resources, unfair working conditions for produce workers and the unavailability of healthy foods in low-income areas.

English Map of the Island of Grenada Updated from the 1763 French Survey, 1780



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Faden, William, "A new plan of the island of Grenada...," 1780

Description

This handwritten map was made from the original French survey of the island of Grenada, located in the Caribbean, by Monsieur Pinel. The new plan was created in 1780 by order of the English government, and was published with the addition of English names, alterations of property and other improvements made from its original survey in 1763. It also includes the inscription, "Lieutt. General Robert Melvill, late His Majesty's Captain General, Governor in Chief &c. of the ceded islands of Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincet, & Tobago, in America."

[Transcript of English Map of the Island of Grenada](#)

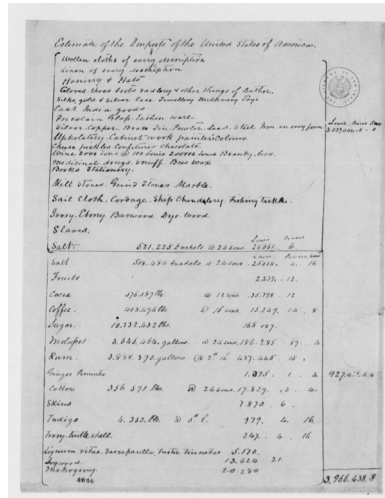
Source-Dependent Questions

- When was this map created? What was the purpose of creating this map?
- What commodities are listed as being grown on the island?
- Why would England want to have an island like this?
- How would having control of this island impact England's trade?

Citation Information

Faden, William, "A new plan of the island of Grenada, from the original French survey of Monsieur Pinel; taken in 1763 by order of government, and now published with the addition of English names, alterations of property, and other improvements to the present year 1780," 1780. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Charles Thomson Estimating Imports to the United States, April 22, 1786



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Jefferson, Thomas, "Thomas Jefferson to Charles Thomson, April 22, 1786, Oil Lamps; with Copy and Estimate of United States Imports," 22 April 1786.

Description

This is one of three pages of a letter sent from Thomas Jefferson which estimated the imports into the United States. Some of the commodities listed include sugar, molasses and salt. Also among the listed commodities from 1786 - "slaves."

[Transcript of Letter from Thomas Jefferson with Estimates of U.S. Imports](#)

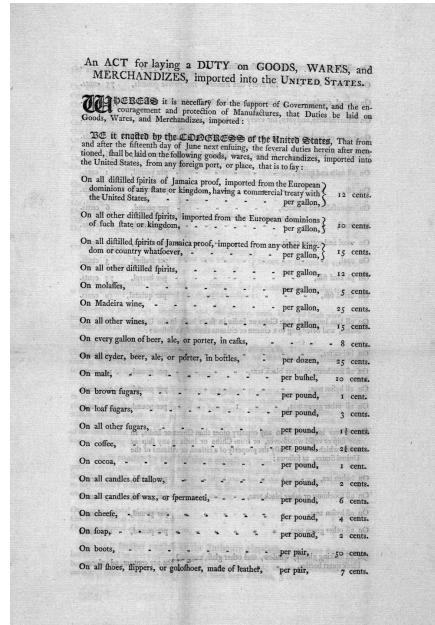
Source-Dependent Questions

- What are some common items listed that are expected to be imported into the United States? What are some items that are unfamiliar?
- Why would the United States be interested in importing these things?
- Compare this list to the [English Map of Grenada](#), what might the United States import from Grenada Island based on Thomas Jefferson's letter?
- Among the listed commodities coming into the United States are slaves. What does this tell you about how slaves were viewed and treated at this time?

Citation Information

Jefferson, Thomas, "Thomas Jefferson to Charles Thomson, April 22, 1786, Oil Lamps; with Copy and Estimate of United States Imports," 22 April 1786. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Tax Rates on Common Imports to United States, May 16, 1789



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "An act for laying a duty on goods, wares, and merchandizes, imported into the United States," pp. 1, 16 May 1789

Description

This chart from 1789 shows the tax rates on some common imports into the United States. Imports include such commodities like distilled spirits, brown sugar, coffee and cheese.

[Transcript of Tax Rates on Common Imports to United States in 1789](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- What reason does the document give for why taxes need to be placed on the imported goods listed above?
- What are some common imports coming into the United States at this time?
- Compare this document to [Thomas Jefferson's letter](#) and the [English Map of Grenada](#). Why would the United States select these particular items for taxation?

Citation Information

"An act for laying a duty on goods, wares, and merchandizes, imported into the United States," pp. 1, 16 May 1789. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Statement of the Quantity of Spirits, Molasses, Coffee, Cocoa and Sugar from the United States, 1818

No. 4.

STATEMENT of the quantity of Spirits, Molasses, Coffee, Cocoa and Sugar, of the growth, produce, &c. of Foreign Countries, exported from the United States, commencing on the 1st day of October, 1814, and ending on the 30th day of September, 1817.

Wishes Exported.	1815.					1816.					1817.				
	Spirits, materials other than gin.	Molasses.	Coffee.	Cocoa.	Sugar.	Spirits, materials other than gin.	Molasses.	Coffee.	Cocoa.	Sugar.	Spirits, materials other than gin.	Molasses.	Coffee.	Cocoa.	Sugar.
Brazil															
Sweden															
Swedish West India															
Denmark and Norway															
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Dutch West Indian American colonies															
Dutch East India															
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Germany, Jersey, and Alderney															
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Trinidadians Sorting Cocoa Pods, 1900



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Trinidad -- sorting cocoa beans plantation," Bain News Service, 1900

Description

The photograph shows a group of people in Trinidad that are on the ground with a large pile of cocoa pods. They are splitting the pods to extract seeds for drying, which will eventually be turned into cocoa powder. The image shows the hard work that went into getting cocoa beans from pods for trade to other countries.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Describe the image. What are these people doing?
- What does the handwriting at the top of the photo say? Describe the connotations of the word plantation with regard to this photo.
- Using examples from the photo, describe the challenges of this type of work.
- Consider this image and explain why countries trade with each other.
- Compare this source to the [Tax Rates on Common Imports document](#). How might the United States instituting a tax on importation of cocoa impact this industry?

Citation Information

"Trinidad -- sorting cocoa beans plantation," Bain News Service, 1900. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Drying Cocoa on the Island of Dominica in the West Indies, ca. 1906



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Drying cocoa, one of the industries of Dominica, [British] West Indies [one of the Windward Islands]," ca. 1906

Description

This photograph from 1906 shows local inhabitants, including children, working to dry cocoa beans in Dominica. The island, located in the Caribbean Sea, was a British colony in the West Indies at the time. The British used Dominica in the 1800s as part of the transatlantic slave trade, by which enslaved people were imported and sold as labor in the islands as part of a trade that also included producing and shipping sugar and coffee as commodity crops to Europe.

Source-Dependent Questions

- The photo shows cocoa beans drying in Dominica, a colony at the time of the British West Indies. Why do you suppose Britain got cocoa beans from Dominica instead of growing it locally? Explain.
- Compare this photo to [Trinidadians sorting cocoa pods](#). What is similar between the photos? What's different?
- How do these photos help to illustrate the conditions of the workers? And how do these photos help illustrate the unseen side of cocoa production and trade?

Citation Information

"Drying cocoa, one of the industries of Dominica, [British] West Indies [one of the Windward Islands]," ca. 1906. Courtesy of Library of Congress

“Did NAFTA Help Mexico? An Assessment After 20 Years,” February 2014



Did NAFTA Help Mexico? An Assessment After 20 Years

By Mark Weisbrot, Stephan Lefebvre, and Joseph Sammut*



Center for Economic and Policy Research
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20009

tel: 202-295-5300
fax: 202-386-1399
www.cepr.net

*Mark Weisbrot is an Executive of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Stephan Lefebvre is a research assistant and Joseph Sammut is an intern at CEPR.

Courtesy of Center for Economic and Policy Research, Weisbrot, Mark, Lefebvre, Stephan and Joseph Sammut, “Did NAFTA Help Mexico? An Assessment After 20 Years,” Center for Economic and Policy Research, February 2014

Description

The February 2014 report was published by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) about the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA was a trade agreement signed by Canada, Mexico and the United States to create a trilateral trade bloc in North America. The CERP report suggests that NAFTA has been a failure for the Mexican economy.

[Transcript of “Did NAFTA Help Mexico? An Assessment After 20 Years”](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- Where does Mexico rank in real GDP out of 20 Latin countries?
- How does the report use the idea of Mexican emigration to the United States as evidence that NAFTA has been a failure in that country?
- What has happened to Mexico’s unemployment rate since NAFTA began?
- Explain what has happened to the Mexican farmers as a result of subsidized U.S. corn flooding their market since the beginning of NAFTA?
- According to the report, has NAFTA been successful for Mexico? Explain your reasoning with evidence.

Citation Information

Weisbrot, Mark, Lefebvre, Stephan and Joseph Sammut, “Did NAFTA Help Mexico? An Assessment After 20 Years,” Center for Economic and Policy Research, February 2014. Courtesy of Center for Economic and Policy Research

“NAFTA’s ‘Broken Promises’: These Farmers Say They Got The Raw End Of Trade Deal,” August 7, 2017

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

NAFTA’s ‘Broken Promises’: These Farmers Say They Got The Raw End Of Trade Deal

August 7, 2017 9:00 AM ET

KRISTINA JOHNSON AND SAMUEL FROMARTZ



A Gelbvieh cow and her calf on a ranch in Paradise Valley, Mont. From Montana cattle ranchers to Florida tomato growers, some bruised by NAFTA think it has favored agribusiness over small-scale farms, lowered environmental standards and made it harder to compete against cheaper imports.

William Campbell/Corbis/Getty Images

You’ve heard that American agriculture loves trade. And it’s easy to see why: Under NAFTA, American farmers have quadrupled their exports to Canada and Mexico and the two nations rank second and third, after China, as markets for U.S. farm goods.

*American agriculture is virtually always a winner when trade agreements remove barriers to U.S. crops and livestock exports.” [2013](#), Zippy Davall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the largest farmers organization in the nation.

Courtesy of National Public Radio, Johnson, Kristina and Samuel Fromartz, “NAFTA’s ‘Broken Promises’: These Farmers Say They Got The Raw End Of Trade Deal,” National Public Radio, 7 August 2017

Description

In this article from National Public Radio, “NAFTA’s Broken Promises,” the reporters interview ranchers and farmers from Montana and Florida to highlight how North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has affected their livelihoods. According to the interviewees, the trade agreement, which was negotiated with the purpose of removing barriers to the exchange of goods and services between Mexico, Canada and the United States, was seen as harmful to their industries.

[Transcript of “NAFTA’s ‘Broken Promises’: These Farmers Say They Got The Raw End Of Trade Deal” Article](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- According to the article, why are ranchers in Montana against the NAFTA trade deal?
- How have wheat farmers near the Canadian border been negatively impacted by NAFTA?
- How has NAFTA affected produce farmers in the southern United States? Explain.
- How has NAFTA affected farmers in Mexico? Explain.
- According to this document, has NAFTA been good for Mexican and American agriculture? Explain with evidence from the text.

Citation Information

Johnson, Kristina and Samuel Fromartz, “NAFTA’s ‘Broken Promises’: These Farmers Say They Got The Raw End Of Trade Deal,” National Public Radio, 7 August 2017. Courtesy of National Public Radio

“Why Des Moines and Iowa business leaders support NAFTA,” February 7, 2018

Des Moines Register
OPINION

Why Des Moines and Iowa business leaders support NAFTA

Jay Byers and Mike Ralston, Iowa View contributors | Published 11:37 a.m. CT Feb. 7, 2018 | Updated 2:50 p.m. CT Feb. 8, 2018

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday said that terminating the North American Free Trade Agreement would result in the “best deal” to revamp the 24-year-old trade pact with Canada and Mexico in favor of U.S. interests. Newslook




Photo: Graham Hughes, AP/Handout/USMAG/Newslook

International trade is critically important to Iowa's economy, particularly for our state's key agriculture and manufacturing industries. That is why the Greater Des Moines Partnership and the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) support the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Courtesy of The Des Moines Register, Byers, Jay and Mike Ralston, “Why Des Moines and Iowa business leaders support NAFTA,” The Des Moines Register, 7 February 2018

Description

This opinion editorial from *The Des Moines Register* was written by Jay Byers, chief executive officer of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, and Mike Ralston, president of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI). Their column focuses on reasons why the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was negotiated with the purpose of removing barriers to the exchange of goods and services between Mexico, Canada and the United States, is a critical trade deal for Iowa farmers and businesses.

[Transcript of “Why Des Moines and Iowa business leaders support NAFTA” Op-Ed](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- Why does the Greater Des Moines Partnership and the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) support the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?
- Explain why trade with Mexico and Canada is so important to Iowa farmers.
- What has happened to the gross domestic product of Mexico, the United States and Canada since NAFTA took effect?
- What percentage of Iowa exports are purchased by Canada and Mexico, and what is the total revenue generated?
- Explain why NAFTA has been good for Iowa.

Citation Information

Byers, Jay and Mike Ralston, “Why Des Moines and Iowa business leaders support NAFTA,” *The Des Moines Register*, 7 February 2018. Courtesy of The Des Moines Register

“NAFTA Pros and Cons: Why Its Six Advantages Outweigh Its Six Disadvantages” June 25, 2019

[TRADE POLICY, NAFTA](#)

NAFTA Pros and Cons

Why Its Six Advantages Outweigh Its Six Disadvantages

...

BY [KIMBERLY AMADEO](#)
Updated June 25, 2019

The [North American Free Trade Agreement](#) created the world's largest free trade area, covering the United States, Canada, and Mexico. In 2017, its member economies generated approximately \$22.2 trillion in [gross domestic product](#).

NAFTA is also controversial. Politicians don't agree on whether the [free trade agreement's](#) advantages outweigh its disadvantages. Here they are so you can decide for yourself.

Pros

[NAFTA has six main advantages](#). According to a [Congressional Research Service report](#) prepared in 2017, the act has more than [tripled trade](#) between [Canada, Mexico,](#) and the United States since it was enacted. The agreement reduced and eliminated [tariffs](#).

Second, greater trade [increased economic output](#). While it is challenging to weigh the impact of NAFTA given the variety of factors involved, experts estimated that full NAFTA implementation would U.S. growth by as much as [0.5 percent a year](#).

Third, while there are varying estimates, stronger growth [created jobs](#). According to a [2010 report, U.S. free trade agreements](#) – the lion's share of which stemmed from the

Courtesy of The Balance, Amadeo, Kimberly, “NAFTA Pros and Cons: Why Its Six Advantages Outweigh Its Six Disadvantages,” *The Balance*, 25 June 2019

Description

Kimberly Amadeo address the pros and cons of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and she makes the argument that the pros outweigh the cons. Amadeo suggests in this article from June 2019 that the little bit of good that NAFTA has been for everyone collectively, as well as for the economy, outweighs the negative that some small pockets of industry have endured.

[Transcript of “NAFTA Pros and Cons: Why Its Six Advantages Outweigh Its Six Disadvantages” Article](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- How much did NAFTA contribute to the collective GDP of the United States, Canada and Mexico?
- What are the six pros and six cons that the author lays out as arguments?
- Why does the article claim that it is important for the United States to participate in free trade deals?
- Do you think the six pros outweigh the six cons? Explain.

Citation Information

Amadeo, Kimberly, “NAFTA Pros and Cons: Why Its Six Advantages Outweigh Its Six Disadvantages,” *The Balance*, 25 June 2019. Courtesy of The Balance

“Six Problems with NAFTA,” June 25, 2019

[TRADE POLICY](#), [NAFTA](#)

Six Problems With NAFTA

NAFTA's 6 Negative Effects

BY [KIMBERLY AMADEO](#)

Updated June 25, 2019

[NAFTA](#) has been criticized for taking U.S. jobs. While it has also done good things for the economy, the [North American Free Trade Agreement](#) has six weaknesses. These disadvantages had a negative impact on both American and Mexican workers and even the environment.

1. U.S. Jobs Were Lost

Since labor is cheaper in Mexico, many [manufacturing](#) industries withdrew part of their production from the high-cost United States. Between 1994 and 2010, the [U.S. trade deficits](#) with Mexico totaled \$97.2 billion. In the same period, 682,900 U.S. jobs went to Mexico. But 116,400 of those jobs were displaced after 2007. The 2008 financial crisis could have caused them instead of NAFTA.

Almost [80 percent of the losses were in manufacturing](#). The hardest-hit states were California, New York, Michigan, and Texas. They had high concentrations of the industries that moved plants to Mexico. These industries included motor vehicles, textiles, computers, and electrical appliances.

2. U.S. Wages Were Suppressed

Not all companies in these industries moved to Mexico. But some used the threat of moving as leverage against union organizing drives. When workers had to choose between joining the union and losing the factory, workers chose the plant. Without union support, the workers had little bargaining power. That suppressed wage growth. According to Kate Bronfenbrenner of Cornell University, many companies in industries

Amadeo, Kimberly, “Six Problems With NAFTA,” *The Balance*, 25 June 2019

Description

Kimberly Amadeo’s article from *The Balance* explains how the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been bad for both the United States and Mexico. An example she includes is that it cost the United States a lot of jobs, especially in manufacturing. In Mexico, NAFTA is attributed to make it difficult on the labor force and the environment.

[Transcript of “Six Problems with NAFTA” Article](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- According to the reporter, what are the six problems with NAFTA?
- Which U.S. industry was hit hardest with job losses?
- Explain what happened to U.S. wages after NAFTA took effect? Why does this matter?
- Describe how NAFTA affected Mexico’s people and environment?

Citation Information

Amadeo, Kimberly, “Six Problems With NAFTA,” *The Balance*, 25 June 2019. Courtesy of The Balance

Côte d'Ivoire Law Enforcement Rescues Children in Chocolate Industry Forced Labor, June 22, 2015



Courtesy of INTERPOL, "Traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire operation targeting child trafficking and forced labour," 22 June 2015

Description

This photograph shows child slaves in the chocolate industry being rescued. The image was distributed by INTERPOL, the International Criminal Police Organization, and it was taken in San Pedro, Côte d'Ivoire, where more than 48 children have been rescued. Twenty-two people were arrested following an operation targeting child trafficking and exploitation in the country.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Describe the photo. What adjectives describe what is happening.
- What age do the child laborers appear to be? Do you think children this age should be working like this? Why or why not?
- What evidence is there in the photo that the work these children may have been dangerous?

Citation Information

"Traffickers arrested in Côte d'Ivoire operation targeting child trafficking and forced labour," 22 June 2015. Courtesy of INTERPOL

“Child Labor and Slavery in the Chocolate Industry,” 2017



Courtesy of Food Empowerment Project, “Child Labor and Slavery in the Chocolate Industry,” Food Empowerment Project, 2017

Description

This article from the Food Empowerment Project highlights the dark side of the chocolate industry. The article suggests that child slave labor, and unfair compensation for farmers, are driving the industry. It also states that children are working in dangerous conditions against their will. Purchasing Fair Trade Certified chocolate would seem to be an answer to this problem, however, the article also suggests Fair Trade may not always be what it appears to be.

[Transcript of “Child Labor and Slavery in the Chocolate Industry” Article](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- Which two African countries supply over 70 percent of the world's cocoa?
- How much does the average cocoa farmer make each day?
- The article highlights child slave labor in the chocolate industry. What evidence is there that the work these children are doing is dangerous?
- How can this article be used to make the argument that consumers should consider buying Fair Trade certified chocolate products?
- How can this article be used to make the case that a consumer should not necessarily trust Fair Trade logos?

Citation Information

“Child Labor and Slavery in the Chocolate Industry,” Food Empowerment Project, 2017. Courtesy of Food Empowerment Project

Fair Trade Certified Article about an Indian Factory and Their Use of Community Development Funds, 2018

"I'm very happy to work here, at a Fair Trade factory. The management and Fair Trade Committee clearly care for us and there is a good work-life balance. After work, I'm not too tired when I get home and I can take care of my family. At other factories, this was not the case."

She is hopeful that her younger daughter, who is studying "computers and commerce," will also work toward the scholarship when it's her time.



LATHA MAHESHWARI

"After work, I'm not too tired when I get home and I can take care of my family. At other factories, this was not the case."



GAUTAM, LATHA'S SON

"I am interested in giving back to this community. I hope to return after my studies and work within this space."

Courtesy of Fair Trade Certified, "Meet Latha and Gautam, Mother and Son in Tirrupur," Fair Trade Certified, 2018

Description

This document highlights how a factory becoming Fair Trade Certified has helped the community in a variety of ways. It focuses on a worker's story from Bestitch Knits, a factory in Tiruppur, India, of a mother being able to use their community funds to send her son to college.

[Transcript of "Meet Latha and Gautam, Mother and Son in Tirrupur" Article](#)

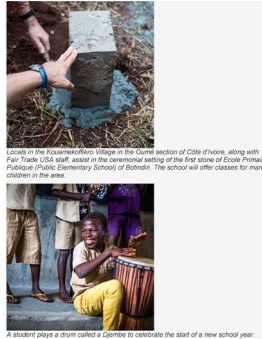
Source-Dependent Questions

- How did the workers in this Fair Trade factory use their Community Development Funds?
- What other successful projects has this Fair Trade factory been able to fund from their Community Development Funds?
- How can this letter be used as evidence to support the idea that buying Fair Trade Certified commodities can be very beneficial?

Citation Information

"Meet Latha and Gautam, Mother and Son in Tirrupur," Fair Trade Certified, 2018. Courtesy of Fair Trade Certified

“Brick by Brick: Rebuilding Public Schools in Côte d’Ivoire,” January 23, 2019



Courtesy of Fair Trade Certified, Cofield, Elise, “Brick by Brick: Rebuilding Public Schools in Côte d’Ivoire,” Fair Trade Certified, 23 January 2019

Description

This article explains how Fair Trade community funds in Cote d’Ivoire are being used to build schools and stock them with school supplies. The article suggests that choosing Fair Trade chocolate products directly benefits families in Cote d’Ivoire by providing revenue to build and run schools.

[Transcript “Brick by Brick: Rebuilding Public Schools in Côte d’Ivoire” Article](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- How was Ecole Primaire Publique (Public Elementary School) of Konan Koffi in Côte d’Ivoire funded?
- Explain why Fair Trade chocolate is crucial to bringing education to the children of Cote d’Ivoire.
- How does this article suggest that buying Fair Trade chocolate is beneficial to the people of Cote d’Ivoire?

Citation Information

Cofield, Elise, “Brick by Brick: Rebuilding Public Schools in Côte d’Ivoire,” Fair Trade Certified, 23 January 2019.
Courtesy of Fair Trade Certified

Open Letter from a Certified Fair Trade Farm in Amado, Arizona, Date Unknown

Dear Fair Trade Community

Greetings from Wholesum Harvest's tomato farm in Amado, Arizona! We are thrilled to be a part of the Fair Trade family and to share our story with you.

Since becoming Fair Trade Certified, your purchases have helped send us more than \$60,000 in Community Development Funds. As additional funds roll in, we plan to address some of the most pressing challenges in our community. These include transportation, health insurance fees and home insurance - all identified by the workers through a survey.

Right now we are working on the first project selected by our fellow workers, which is to obtain free health coverage for everyone who is part of our Fair Trade community. Wholesum provides us with health insurance, of which we pay a small portion. Even this small amount is too much for many of the workers here, so we've decided to use our extra funds to offset the cost. This will not only give us the benefit of coverage, but of peace of mind as well. No longer will we have to worry about money when one of our children has a fever or a parent can't get out of bed. We can take them to the doctor, secure in the knowledge that our insurance is fully covered.

Being a part of Fair Trade benefits our community, but it also benefits us personally by allowing us to develop our project management skills. We are learning how to manage complex projects and work together for the good of our community. Seeing how the workers at our sister farms in Mexico have used Fair Trade to improve their communities motivates us to give it our all.

We hope that you will continue to choose Fair Trade whenever possible - and not just for us, but for those who will come after us. We want to be the first of many Fair Trade farms in the United States so that farmers and workers everywhere can reap the benefits. You've already empowered us to start realizing our dreams. Your continued support of Fair Trade will help countless others achieve theirs as well.

Sincerely,
"First Fair USA" Fair Trade Committee
Wholesum Harvest
Amado, Arizona, USA

Courtesy of Fair Trade USA, "A letter from a certified Fair Trade farm in Amado Arizona. The letter acknowledges the advantage Fair Trade has had on their farm for their employees, their families, and their community," Wholesum Harvest, Date Unknown

Description

This open letter was written to the Fair Trade Certified organization thanking them for their help in becoming Fair Trade Certified. Since becoming a part of the Fair Trade community, this farm (Wholesum Harvest) has been able to re-invest in health insurance for their employees and their family. Additionally, they are working to help address some pressing needs that have been identified by their workers for their community.

[Transcript of Open Letter from a Certified Fair Trade Farm in Amado, Arizona](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- How much money has this farm been able to send to their Community Development Fund since becoming Fair Trade Certified?
- How have the workers been able to offset the cost of insurance by becoming Fair Trade Certified?
- Explain how becoming Fair Trade Certified has benefited the workers at Wholesum Harvest as well as the community around them.
- How can this letter be used as evidence to support the idea that buying Fair Trade Certified commodities can be very beneficial?

Citation Information

"A letter from a certified Fair Trade farm in Amado Arizona. The letter acknowledges the advantage Fair Trade has had on their farm for their employees, their families, and their community," Wholesum Harvest, Date Unknown. Courtesy of Fair Trade USA