

Trade

Trade is known as the voluntary exchange of goods and services among people and countries. When nations look for trading partners, strategic/military alliances are taken into account.

Obviously enemies would not trade with each other.



Trade

Location also has a huge part of trade.

It is much easier to import and export with a neighboring country than one half way across the world.

Example: It is much cheaper and easier for the U.S. to trade wheat with Mexico rather China because of the distance the wheat would have to go to sell.

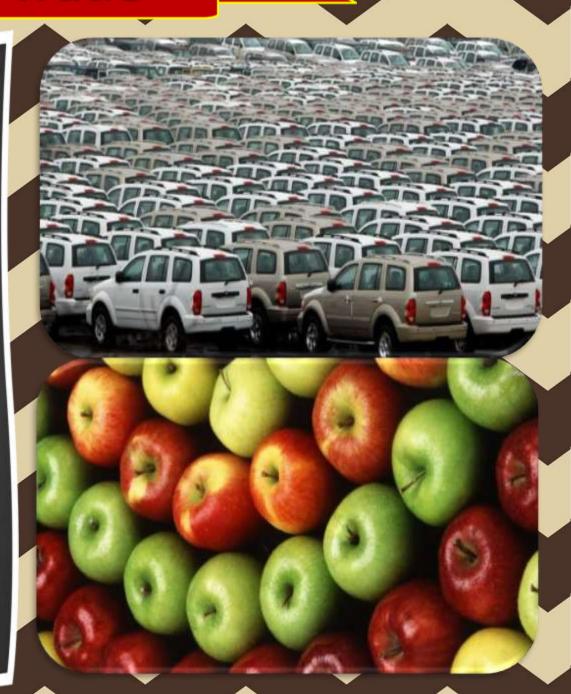


Because of the short distance, the U.S. is Mexico's largest trading partner.

Trade

Imports are goods a country buys.

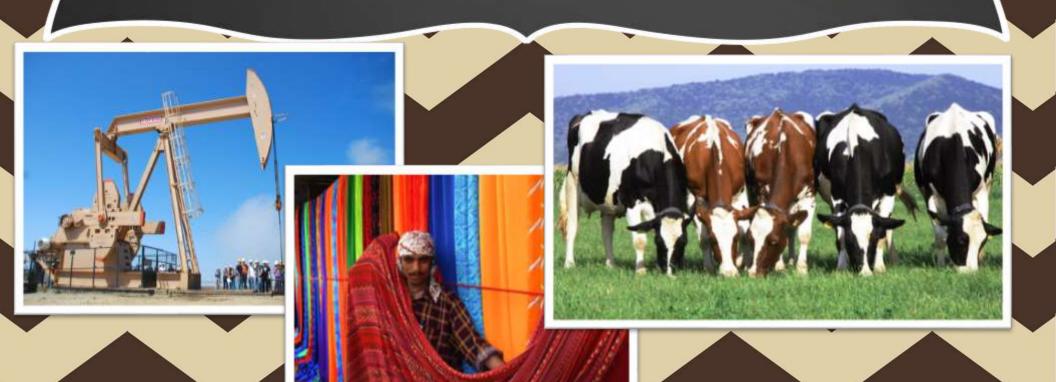
Exports are goods a country sells.



Although some nations are rich in natural resources and highly developed in terms of technologies and infrastructure it is not always in the country's best interest to produce everything it is capable of. Why?

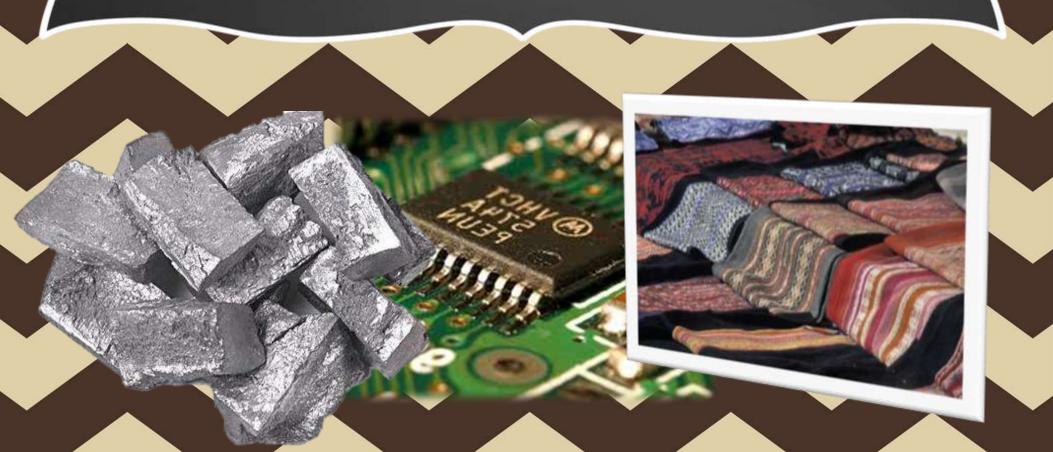
Because countries usually market things they are capable of producing fastest, cheapest, and in great abundance. This is known as specialization.

Specialization focuses on a narrow range of products/services that can be produced most efficiently and cost effectively.





Countries can choose to specialize in numerous areas such as natural resources, services, technology, textile, machinery, etc.



In North
America,
Mexico
specializes in
petroleum
extraction and
refining.



Much of Mexico's GDP comes from petroleum deposits.

In Central America, Costa Rica specializes in ecotourism.

People come from around the world to explore Costa Rican jungles



In South America, Argentina specializes in beef and leather processing.

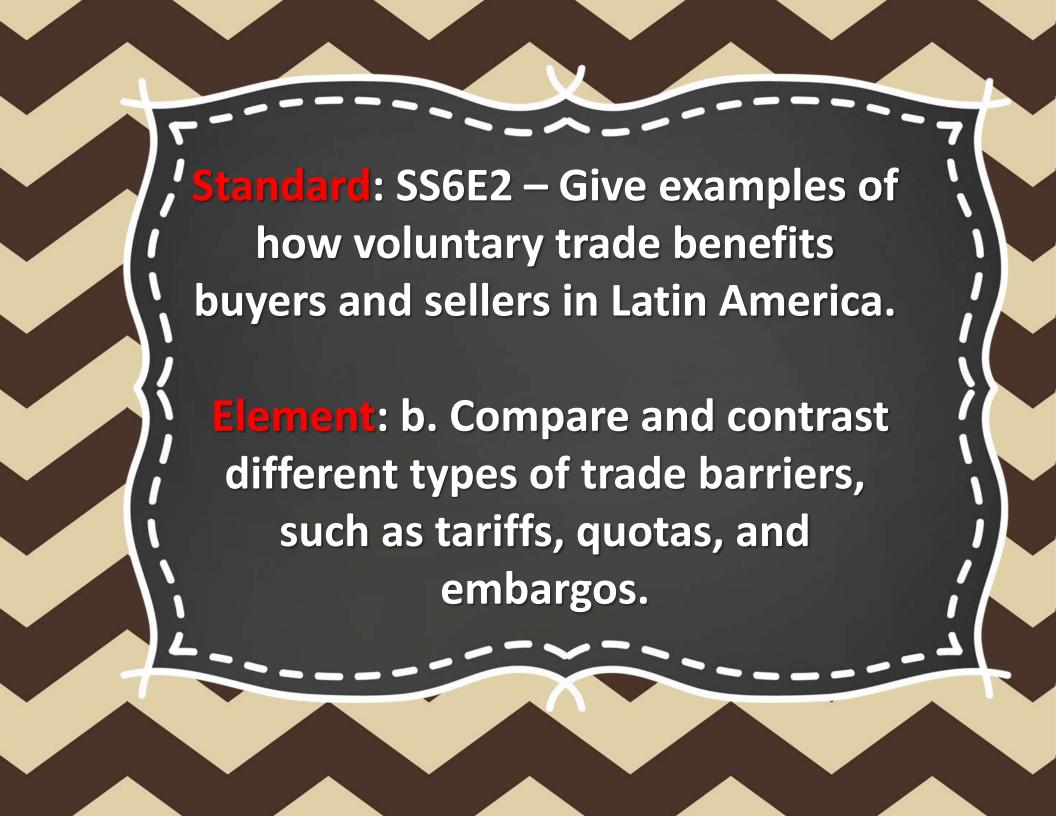
The leather industry is a multi-billion dollar industry world wide.



In the Caribbean, Cuba specializes in sugar refining.

The leather industry is a multi-billion dollar industry world wide.





Trade Barriers

A trade barrier is any activity which slows or outright blocks the free exchange of goods and services between nations.

If a country disagrees with the actions of another country that they are trading with the offended country can place sanctions on the other country to persuade them to change.

A sanction is the act of economically punishing another nation. Rather than going to war, nations use sanctions as a nonviolent way of punishing other nations.



Before declaring war, majority of all nations place a series of sanctions. War is always the final solution only if the sanctions are do not produce desired outcome.

Trade Barriers

Citizens who do not agree with a company's actions or viewpoints have the right to boycott their products and or services.

Boycott is the refusal to purchase good/service from a specific company or country.

Boycotting hurts companies economically because their goods/services are not being sold, therefor they are not making any money.





Tariff

Too much imports from other countries hurts a country's economy, so they put up tariffs to help one's own country compete with the global market.

Buying a product made in your own country helps keep jobs and money in your own country rather helping a foreign country.

This is why you see products that say....Made in America!!!

Tariff

Let's say Mexico is able to grow a certain crop much cheaper than the United States. To help the U.S. farmers compete with Mexico selling the crop in the United States, a tariff can be placed on the crop import to make it more expensive to help the U.S. farmers in the U.S. compete against Mexico's competitive advantage, which would be price.

Tariff

Example: Farmer Brown grows Corn. Farmer brown is able to sell his corn for \$12 a bushel at a local grocery.

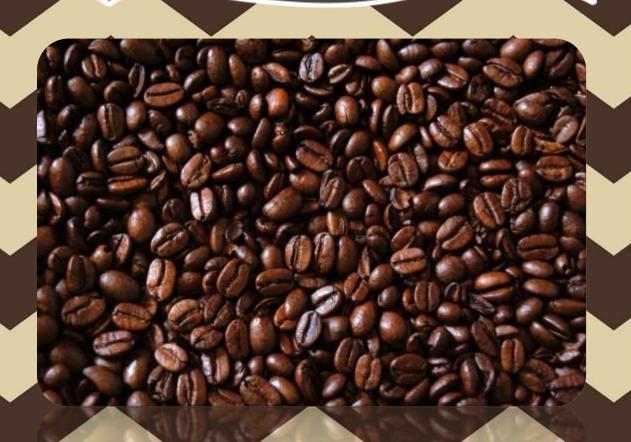
If the grocery started importing corn from another country that was able to sell it for \$6 a bushel Farmer Brown would be out of business as a farmer.

The U.S. could then put up a tariff on corn to help keep all corn farmers in business.

QUOTA

A specific number limit placed on the number of imports that may enter a country. Think of quota as a number limit on a good or service.

Only 1,000,000 tons of coffee beans and not an ounce more!



QUOTA

A country may put up a quota against imports to help their own country's imports compete in certain markets.

If a country imports too much of an item, it could have detrimental effects on its own economy.

Many people would lose their jobs.

Embargoes are a government order stopping trade with another country.

If a country does not agree with the conduct or actions of another country, an embargo can be placed against the offending country to help persuade them to change.

The purpose of an embargo is to hurt the economy of the offending country.



Example: A country is openly supporting terrorist. If another country wants that country to stop supporting terrorist, the country can put up an embargo against the terrorist supporting country.

If the embargo is successful the offending country should be hurt economically.

Simply put, if the embargo doesn't hurt the economy its not going to work.

Example: The U.S. has just found out that one of its trading partners are experimenting on the effects of nuclear radiation on their citizens forming cancer. The U.S. does not agree with this and puts up an embargo of wheat imports from this country until they stop.

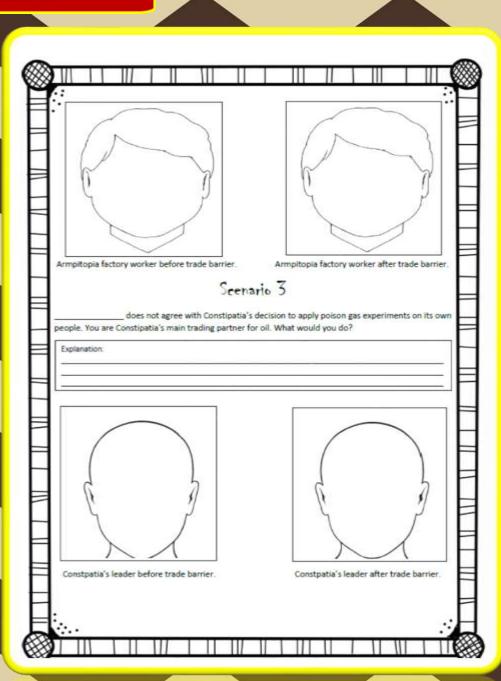
If the country who is doing the experimenting has other buyers who are interested in the wheat the embargo did not work!

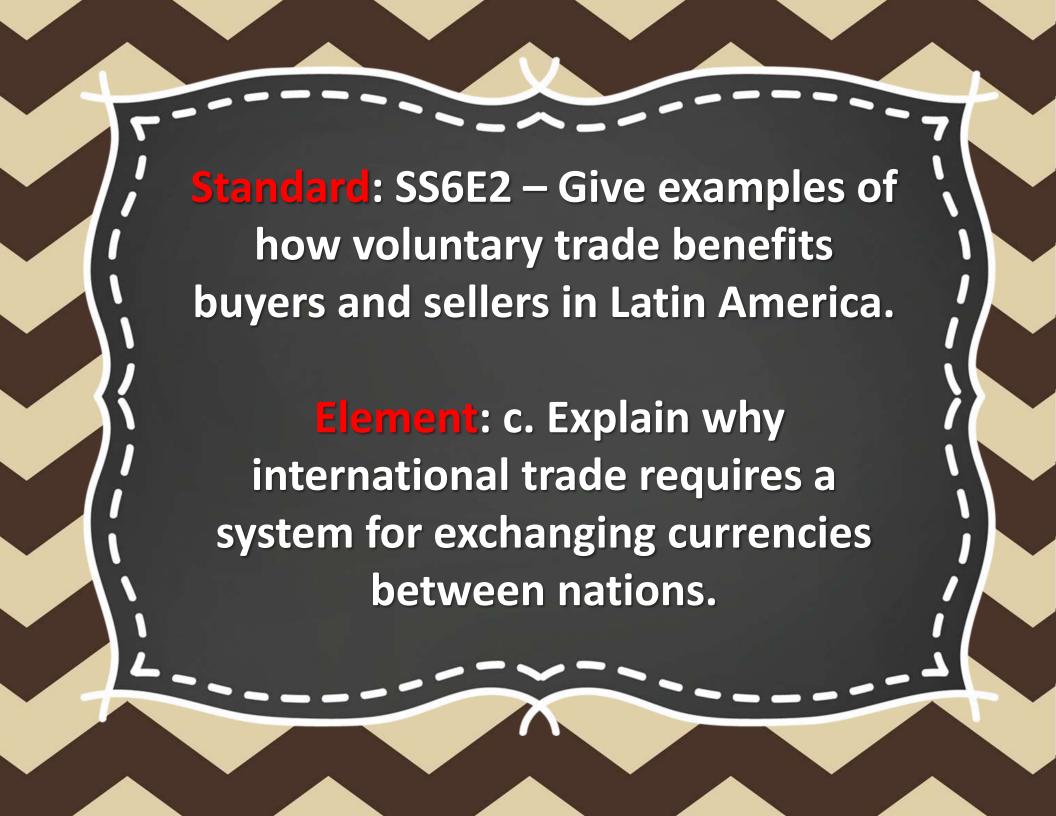
Remember: Embargo's do not work if the import you are banning has other buyers from around the world.

Embargo's are only successful if the import is purchased mainly from the offended country.

Trade Barrier Drama

Trade Barrier Drama Directions: Read the following scenarios below and explain if you would use a Tariff, Quota, or Embargo. In the picture bax illustrate the expression before and after of each person it affects. Be sure to use each trade barrier only once and insert a made up country that you create in the blanks. Scenario 1 farmers are unable to compete with the low prices of wheat with the country of Muchachola. Farmers are losing their land due to not being able to compete with the low prices of Muchachola. Your country currently imports 100 tons a year of wheat. What would you do? Explanation: Muchachola farmer before trade Barrier. Muchachola farmer after trade Barrier. Scenario 2 are buying automobile imports from Armpitopia rather than automobiles from your own country. Your GDP is lower than the previous year because of this. What would you do? Explanation:





Currency Exchange

In order for countries in South America to trade, a system of currency exchange must exist.

This is due to the fact that there are 14 unique currencies in use in South America today.



Currency Exchange

Without a system of exchange rates among so many countries in South America trade would be next to impossible.

Imagine if all 50 states in the U.S. had their own monetary system? If you went to Florida, you would have to know how much your money is worth and trade your states money in for Florida money to buy and purchase goods.

Some southern states tried this...it doesn't work out to well.





The currency of Mexico is the Pesos.

The currency of Brazil is the Real.



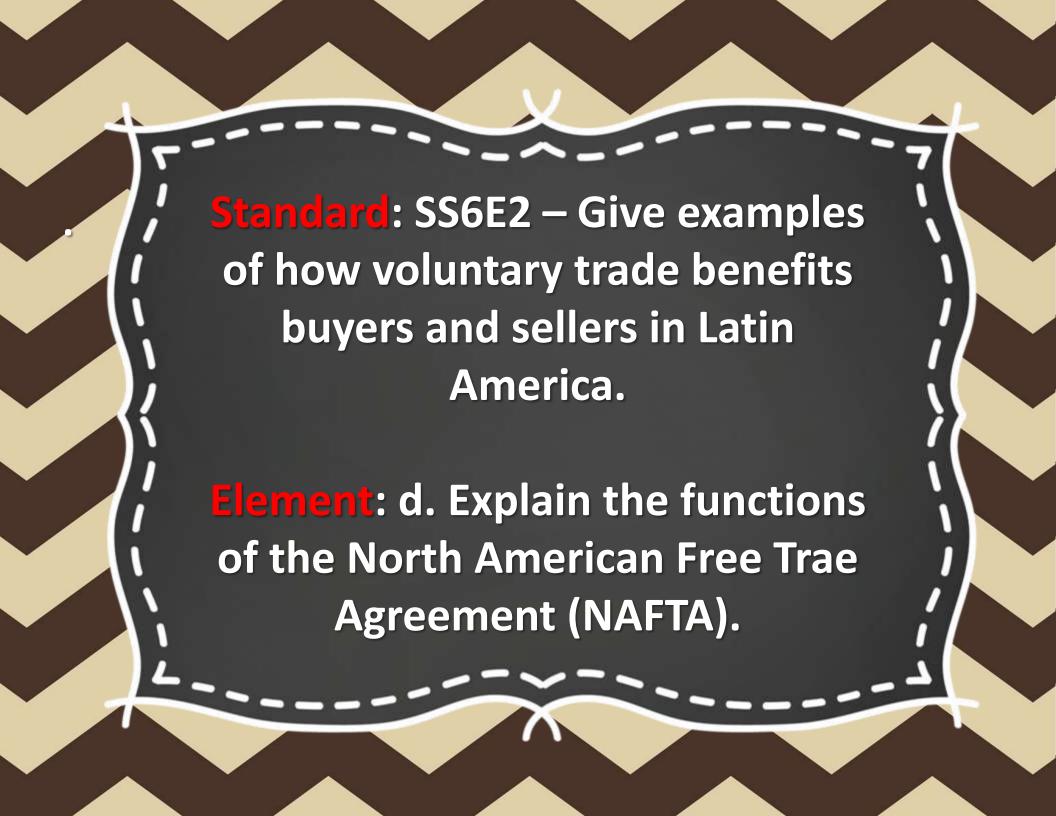
Currency Exchange

Exchange rates are used to determine how much one nation's currency is worth in terms of another's.

Example: 1 U.S. dollar is worth 3.17 Brazilian reals.









The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), signed in 1994 by the government of Canada, the United States, and Mexico, established one of the world's largest free-trade zones.





The goal of this was to increase multinational trade and economic cooperation across North America, as well as raise the collective standard of living.

Standard of living is the level of wealth and material comfort available to a people.

Positives about NAFTA

NAFTA eliminated import tariffs, which increased the level of trade among the three nations.

Canada, United
States, and Mexico
all trade free of
taxes with each
other. This helps
lower cost for
goods and services
between each.



Positives about NAFTA

NATA helped increase oil exports from Mexico to the United States, thereby decreasing American dependence on Mideast oil imports.

The U.S.
imports over
270 billion
Dollars worth
of oil a year
from Mexico!!!



Positives about NAFTA

NAFTA helped increase foreign investment within the three nations because the cost was lowered creating higher profits.

Not having to pay taxes makes foreign investments more attractive.



Negatives of NAFTA

NAFTA outsourced numerous manufacturing jobs from the United States to Mexico particularly in the electrical appliance and textile industries.

Outsourcing is the transfer of work/production from one country to another where the cost of labor/ manufacturing is cheaper.

Since the inception (beginning) of NAFTA over 1,000,000 jobs have been lost in the U.S.



Negatives of NAFTA

NAFTA cut numerous farm-related jobs (and locally-owned farms in general) in Mexico due to cheaper agricultural products coming into the country from the U.S.

Many farmers
have not been
able to
compete with
cheap Mexican
Crops.



Negatives of NAFTA

NAFTA damaged the Mexican environment by Canadian mining companies looking to extract shale oil.

Sometimes oil is spilt into the environment when extracting oil. This is devastating to the environment and wildlife.



