



Global Connections

After watching the *JA Our Nation* Lesson 5 volunteer video session, complete the following product-web activity about imports, exports, and global connections.

Materials

- Paper plates or sheets of paper
- Crayons or markers
- Two colors of string or yarn (You will be using one color of string to show imports, and another to show exports.)
- Household items

Activity

Check off the boxes as you finish your work.

- Find five or six small products in your home. For example: bar of soap, sponge, baby sock, pencil, jar of jam. If possible, choose items that are labeled with the country where they were made.
- If an item's label doesn't say where it came from, or if it doesn't have a label, research that product to see where it was made. Be sure you have one US product.
- Using paper plates or pieces of paper, write USA on one paper plate and place it in the center. Color the plate red, white, and blue or use the image of a US flag.
- Place an item from the USA on this plate. For example, let's say the jar of jam.
- Place your next item on a different paper plate—let's say the bar of soap—and draw a flag on the plate to show which country the item comes from. For example, if the bar of soap is from France, you would draw the French flag. Connect the two plates with a colored string to show that the United States imports the item from that country.
- Continue like this for all the other items, connecting each one to the USA with the import string.
- Now, find out if the USA exports that first item (jar of jam) to any of the other countries in your web. Using the other color of string, connect the paper plates to show those exports.
- Once you have a web of products coming to (imports) or going from (exports) the USA, see if you can discover if any of the products or parts come to and from the other countries in your web. If so, connect those two plates using your string. For example, France also exports soap to England. Show imports in one color, and exports in the other. In some cases you will have more than one color of string for an item. Drawing arrows may also help.
- Think about it:
 - What would happen if there were a disaster in the country where a product is made?

- How would that affect the product as an export?
- How would it affect the country's economy?
- How would that affect other countries and their economy?
- Clean up your mess and put the items back where you got them.
- Choose one of your items and write a paragraph about it. Tell what it is made of, where it comes from and which countries use it. Is it an essential product or a luxury item? How does it affect the economy of the nation that produces it?

If you don't have the time or resources to create a global web with household items and paper plates, you can draw the web on a piece of paper and write the names of the products in circles. Remember to color each circle with the colors of the flag of the country the product comes from, and show whether the product is an import to or export from the USA.

