



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 in trade.

Trade

Location also has a huge part of trade. It is much easy 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 them.

Because of the short distance, the U.S. is Canada'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.



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



Canada specializes primarily in oil extraction and refining. This industry accounts for 19% of Canada's total exports.

Surprisingly this map shows oil extraction is found all over Canada and not just in the Canadian shield.



Another major area of specialization for Canada is the motor vehicle industry, particularly automobile and automotive parts manufacturing; this accounts for 10% of Canada's export market.

If your parents have ever had to order parts for their vehicle, odds are it may have came from Canada.





Currency Exchange

In order for Canada to trade with other nations — its'
NAFTA trade partners for example — a system of
currency exchange must exist. This is due to the fact
that most nations their own unique currency.
Canada uses the Canadian dollar as their currency.



Currency Exchange

Without a method to convert monetary values between disparate currencies, international trade would be impossible.

Imagine if all 50 states in the U.S. had their own monetary system? If you went to purchase something from 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.



Currency Exchange

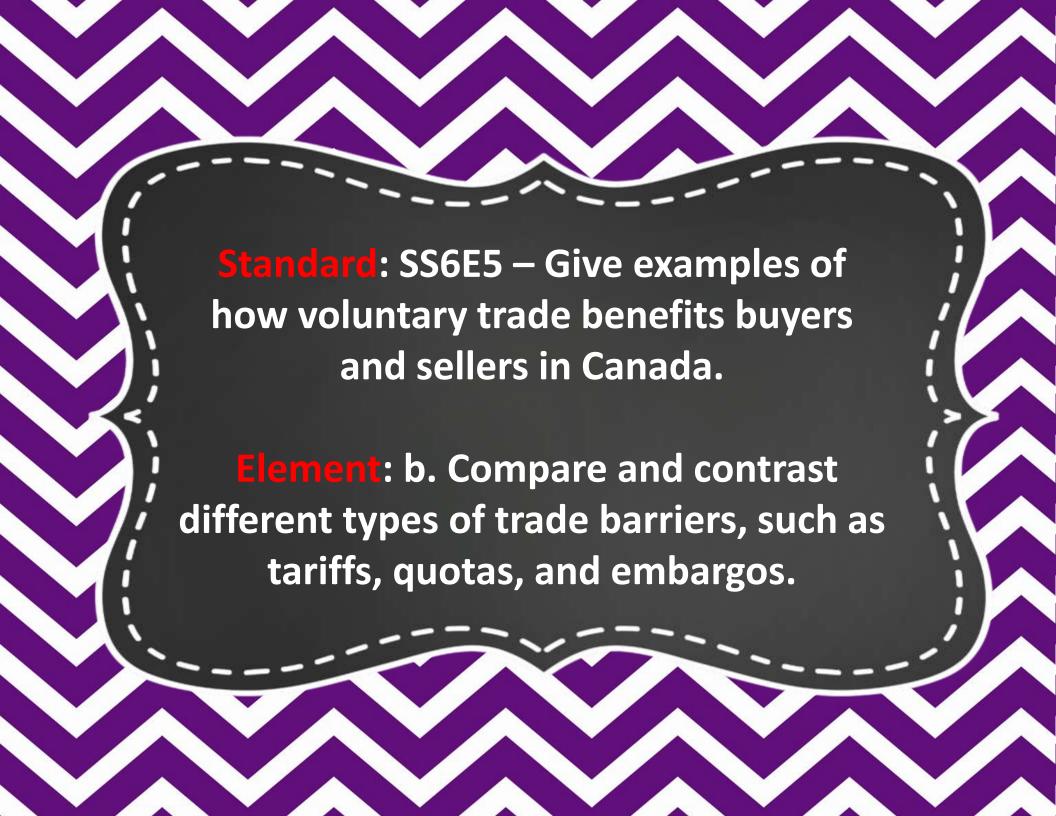
Exchange rates are used to determine how much one nation's currency is worth in terms of another's.

Example: 1 U.S. dollar is worth 1.35 Canadian dollars.









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 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 is the sanctions are ineffective of the 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

Let's say Canada is able to grow a certain crop much cheaper than the U.S. To help the U.S. farmers compete with Canada selling the crop in the U.S. 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 Canada'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.

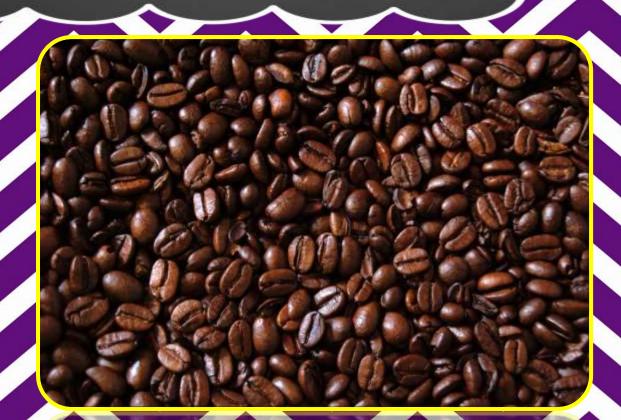
If the grocery started importing corn from another country that was able to sell it for \$6 a bushel Farmer Brown would be out of business as a farmer.

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 quota as a number limit on a good or service.

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





A country may put up a quota against imports to help their own countries imports compete with 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.

Embargo is a government order stopping trade with another country.

STOP



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.

If it doesn't hurt the economy, it doesn't work.

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.

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.