



Unit I

World Store: Observing Our Divided World

Unit Learning Objectives

Unit I, World Store, introduces students to the concepts of the First and Third Worlds, as well as emerging markets, and familiarizes students with some of the commercial relationships and economic distinctions between our planet's wealthiest and poorest nations.

By the end of this unit, *ALL* students should be able to:

- Identify on a globe or map our planet's wealthiest (First World) and poorest (Third World) regions, as well as intermediate emerging markets.
- Understand basic global trends in the importing and exporting of different types of goods.
- Understand that different countries use different currencies, and refer to exchange rates to convert between currencies.
- Analyze basic socioeconomic indicators – such as GDP per capita, percentage of population below poverty line, or infant mortality rate – that throw light on the relative wealth or poverty of a nation.
- Understand how the prehistoric development of agriculture likely played a decisive role in determining the economic and technological advantages of peoples in different parts of the globe.

ADVANCED students should be able to:

- Predict comparative socioeconomic indicators for wealthy versus poor countries.
- Recognize the importance of the informal sector, particularly in poor countries.
- Discuss problems related to low levels of health insurance coverage.
- Understand the difference between fixed and floating exchange rates.
- Understand the relationship between the development of agriculture and the transition from hunter-gatherer to sedentary lifestyles.

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Overview of Activities

1. Video: World Store
Introduction to developing countries, world trade and exchange rates through the device of a grocery shopping trip.
2. ClothesMart
Group activity introducing imports and exports.
3. How Much Is Enough?
Individual activity and classroom discussion exploring the meaning of poverty.
4. Different Countries, Different Lives
Group activity introducing common socioeconomic indicators.
5. Your Kitchen
Homework assignment and follow-up activities exploring different global markets and types of commercial products.
6. Travel Money
Introductory and advanced Internet research assignments familiarizing students with foreign currencies and exchange rates.
7. Llamas and Lomas
Essay and short-answer questions exploring the prehistory and likely economic consequences of the development of agriculture.

