AnthroSchools Homework Resource

**Curriculum and Exam Board:** A-level AQA

**Subject**: Geography

**Topic**: 3.2.1 Global Systems and Global governance (3.2.1.1 Globalisation)

Resource Tasks

1. Chart the supply chain of an object in your home
2. Answer questions about globalisation

|  |
| --- |
| **Learning outcomes** |
| Students will be able to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation. |
| Students will recognise that globalisation has led to divisions in patterns of production, distribution and consumption. |
| Students can discuss the causes and consequences of inequality linked to globalisation. |

# Key Skills Developed in Resource

* Critical questioning of information and sources of information
* Online research
* Potential for fieldwork
* Presentation skills
* Evaluating and presenting findings from research
* Collect, analyse and interpret information from secondary sources

# Task 1: Chart the Supply Chain of an Object in Your Home

**Estimated Time:** 60 minutes

In geography A-level, a key aspect of globalisation we learn about is ‘economic globalisation’. This is the idea that, particularly over the last century, more and more people are connected across the world through a global economic system of exchange. This means that there are products and materials that are made and manufactured in different parts of the world from where they are assembled and sold as products or objects. For example, in China manufacturing and export are large businesses and many things that we own here in Britain are “Made in China”. That does not mean that all of the materials used to make the product are also from China, but that the object is assembled and then packaged and sent to a store here or via an online shop so that we can buy it here in the UK.

This global system of economic exchange relies on a set-up known as a “supply chain”, in which different places, people and companies are responsible for different parts of the manufacturing process. Starting from the raw materials and their mining or growing to their manipulation and construction to their assembly, packaging and shipping, each object might have “come from” many different places. The end result is that you purchase that object in a shop or online. However, how does your money get distributed to all of these people involved in getting the object to you? There are many different people involved in, for example, manufacturing and shipping a mobile phone.

In this homework resource, you will select an everyday object from your home and do independent research to understand its supply chain. The questions below will help guide you to in this homework and critically analyse your results.

***CONTENT WARNING: Please note that independent research into supply chains may reveal stories of poor working conditions, forms of modern slavery, exploitation and discrimination as well as poverty and poor health.***

**What to do**

1. Choose an object in your house that is meaningful to you or that you use regularly. This could be anything from a toy to a mobile phone, a piece of art or even a piece of furniture.
2. Write a description of the object according to the prompting questions below.
3. Through independent research, answer the questions below about where the object came from, what it is made of, how it arrived at the place you got it.
4. Then complete the questions in the final section to think about what this process has taught you about globalisation

**Step 1: Describe Your Object**

*Name Your Object*

*How large is the object? Provide approximate dimensions.*

*Where is the object currently located?*

*How did you get the object?*

*What time period is the object from?*

*Briefly, why did you choose this object?*

**Step 2: Through independent online research, describe the materials used to make the object and chart the supply chain**

* *What is the object made of? List all components and their materials*

* *Where did those materials come from to make each component? Provide as specific a location as possible.*

* *Where was the object manufactured or assembled?*

* *If it was assembled or manufactured far from where you live, how did it travel to you? Was it shipped, flown, posted?*

* *Who are the people and companies involved in the production of this object?*

* *How did it come to be in your or your family’s possession?*

* *Is there any information you cannot find about the object which you would like to know?*

* *Sketch the approximate supply chain for each component of the object, its assembly and manufacture and its arrival to you in the box below.*

Task 2: Answer Questions

**Estimated Time:** 45 minutes

Answer the following questions about globalisation and its relationship to the object you have just described.

* *Is this object a product of globalisation? If, so why? If not, why not?*

* *In what ways does this object reveal the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation? Does it point to any global inequalities?*

* *Has this activity changed the way you think about this object?*

* *What information surprised you about the object?*

* *What else would you like to know about the object?*