

People need many things. In some countries, people can get much of what they need. But they still need to get things from other countries. If you look at the labels of food in the grocery store, it is like a geography lesson. You will find foods that come from many other places. Long ago, people used to just eat what they could grow or find in their own area. Today, people can get foods from all around the world.

Much more than food comes from different countries. For example, in the United States we do not have any rubber trees. Those trees need a warm, hot climate. So we get rubber from other countries. One country that sells rubber is Brazil. So if you have a ball or even an eraser that is made of rubber, it started out on a tree in a warm country. Factories in the United States use rubber to make tires.

When a country gets something from another country, it is an import. In Canada it is too cold to grow lemons. So people in Canada get lemons that come from the United States and other countries. They import the fruit. So if you buy lemonade in Canada, it comes from another country. When a country sells something to another country it is an export.

Canada has a lot of electricity. Canada has great rivers. People built dams across them. A dam is like a wall. The dam has wheels on it. Those are water wheels. When the water rushes through them, it turns the wheels. The wheels make electricity when they turn. Canada uses electricity to make things.

Some Canadian factories make aluminum. That is a useful metal. It takes a lot of electricity to make it. But the Canadians do not have bauxite. That is an ore. That is something found under the ground. Canadian factories get it from mines. But the mines are not in Canada. They are in Jamaica.

If you have a bicycle, it may be made from aluminum. And it probably has rubber tires. That bicycle may have been made in the United States. But its parts come from other places. That one bicycle may have parts from Brazil, Canada, Jamaica, and the United States.

The same kinds of connections are part of many cars. Long ago, cars were made mostly in the United States. Now cars are made in many countries. But wherever they are made, they have parts from different places.

Locate and classify information – Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What is something the United States imports?

- a. rubber
- b. tires
- c. lemons
- d. everything

3. Which of these is something people mine?

- a. aluminum
- b. gasoline
- c. bauxite
- d. rubber

2. What is something that the United States exports?

- a. rubber
- b. lemons
- c. aluminum
- d. tea

4. What is the difference between an import and an export?

- a. A country sells exports. It buys imports.
- b. A country buys exports. It sells imports.
- c. A country need to export many things.
- d. A country needs to import many things.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. What is one way to classify foods?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	a	b	c	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

Students may suggest other ways such as dairy, meat, but should base their answer on the text. Then they can say by where it comes from.