

FOLLOW THE PRODUCT

Purpose

In this activity, you will choose a product and try to trace its production and distribution path around the world, as was done with the iPhone and coffee in the article “Goods Across the World.” While our lives may seem like they mostly function on a local level, this will reinforce just how global everyday life has become.

Process

In this activity, you’re going to try to trace a product around the world, as was done in the article “Goods Across the World.” You will take the following steps to research and illustrate the movement of your product. Choose something you use in your everyday life. It must be made of different components, or parts, and cannot be an iPhone or Starbucks’ coffee.

1. Conduct some Internet research to figure out where the components of this product originated before they were assembled into your product. Limit this to five components.
2. Add these locations to your world map.
3. Then, try to find out where the components of the product traveled to be assembled to make your final product, and add these locations to the map.
4. Add your current location.
5. Draw arrows to show where the component parts originated, where they traveled, and how they eventually got to you.

When you’re done, post your final map in your classroom, and then take a few minutes to see what other products were traced. Now, think about which products’ “origin stories” surprised you the most, which surprised you the least, and if you will do anything different in your everyday life to lessen the environmental impact and any hidden costs associated with the product, such as low-wage or child labor.

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Group Names:

Date:

Directions: Pick a product to trace, and then follow each of the steps below.

Product: _____

Step 1 – Locations of Origin

Research your product online to find out where the components of this product originate. In the table below, list up to five components and their locations of origin. Additionally, cite the sources of that information. Then, add your locations to the world map below, making sure to label the locations and the component parts.

Component Part	Location of Origin	Source



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Step 2 – Routes Traveled

Research where the components of the product traveled to be assembled to make your final product. Add those locations to the map. Then, draw arrows from the origination locations to the locations it traveled, and ultimately to your location.

Component Part	Route Traveled	Source

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