GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE (7G)

Nations and cultures are increasingly interconnected through international travel, international economic systems, the mass media, and shared environmental problems. The wealth, security, and general welfare of almost all nations are interconnected, and although global interdependence often has positive effects, not everyone benefits equally.

The map has three strands—*communication and transportation technologies, trade,* and *treaties*. In the elementary grades, the focus is on how so many of the things that people use do not come from their families or even from their local communities but from other countries. In the middle grades, the focus is on agreements made between countries to maintain peaceful relationships, to trade with each other, and to manage the global environment. In high school, the focus is on the trade-offs and complications that come with globalization.

NOTES

In the *communication and transportation technologies* strand, benchmarks 7G/M6 and 7G/H5 have been developed to address the increasing role that such technologies play in global interdependence.

A number of the benchmarks in the *trade* strand have been revised to clarify their meaning and to increase the coherence of the strand. For example, the 6-8 benchmark "Trade between nations…" has been revised to take note of differences in human resources as well as differences in natural resources as important influences on trade between nations.

In the *treaties* strand, the 6-8 benchmark 7G/M7 has been developed to point out the role of international organizations in facilitating relationships among nations. Another new middle-school benchmark introduces the idea that "Treaties do not affect all of the people in a country equally."

RESEARCH IN *BENCHMARKS*

Some research suggests that middle-school and high-school students have an understanding of the global nature of trade, although they have only limited understanding about reciprocal benefits from trade (Schug & Lephardt, 1992).

9-12

International trade is often complicated by political motivations taking priority over economic ones. 7G/H2*

The wealth of a country depends on the balance between how much its resources and products are sought by other nations and how much of other nations' resources and products it seeks. Even if a country could produce everything it needs for itself, it may still benefit from trade with other countries. 7G/H1*

8C/H4*

The growing worldwide interdependence of social, economic, and ecological systems means that changes in one place in the world may have effects in any other place. 7G/H4*

7E/H3*

8C/H5*

Communication and transportation technologies, coupled with political and economic policies, now allow people to interact with people in different countries almost as easily as they interact with people in their own country. This has allowed for the spread of political, economic, and cultural influences across the planet much more rapidly than had been the case in the past. Like any social change, there are trade-offs in the globalization of the planet, and it benefits some people more than others. 7G/H5**

Migration of workers between nations—temporary and permanent, legal and illegal—plays a major role in the quality and availability of the workforce in many nations. It can bring both economic benefits and political problems. 7G/H3*

10J/H1*

6-8

Treaties do not affect all of the people in a country equally. 7G/M8** (SFAA)

7F/M4**

The economic well-being of a country may be enhanced by improving the skill and motivation of its workforce, by developing equipment or practices that are more efficient and produce higher quality products and services, and by engaging in trade with other nations. 7G/M2*

The global environment is affected by national and international policies and practices relating to energy use, waste disposal, ecological management, manufacturing, and population. 7G/M5*

International organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the European Union provide a structure for nations to communicate, reach consensus, and negotiate treaties, but these organizations often have only limited authority over their members. 7G/M7** (SFAA)

Communication and transportation technologies influence how much people in different countries may interact, whether it be for political, economic, or social purposes. 7G/M6**

8B/M3*

8B/M2*

4B/M11a*

4C/M10**

4C/M7

Treaties are negotiated between two or more nations to establish or maintain peaceful relationships, to define parameters for trade, or to create political or military alliances. 7G/M3*

Trade between nations occurs when natural resources or the skill to make something are unevenly distributed or when the costs of production are very different in different countries. A nation has a trade opportunity whenever it can create more of a product or service or a better quality product or service, or a less expensive product or service than can another nation. 7G/M1*

8B/M4*

8C/M6*

4B/M10ab*

8D/M2

3-5

Manufacturing (p. 57)
The Industrial Revolution (p. 89)

Although many things are still made by hand in some parts of the world, almost everything in the most technologically developed countries is now produced using machines that are automated. By using machinery, the time required to make a product and its cost can be greatly reduced. 8B/E4*

Trade occurs between individual people, between nations, and between regions in the same nation. 7G/E1b*

Communication technologies make it possible to send and receive information more and more reliably, quickly, and cheaply over long distances. 8D/E4

Communication Technology (v. 1, p. 109)

For many things they need, people rely on others who are not part of their family and may not even be part of their local community. 7G/E2** (BSL)

Many of the things people eat and wear come from other countries. 7G/E1a*

K-2

Political and Economic Systems (p. 47)

People often trade things they have for things that they want. 7E/P3**

communication and transportation technologies

trade

treaties