

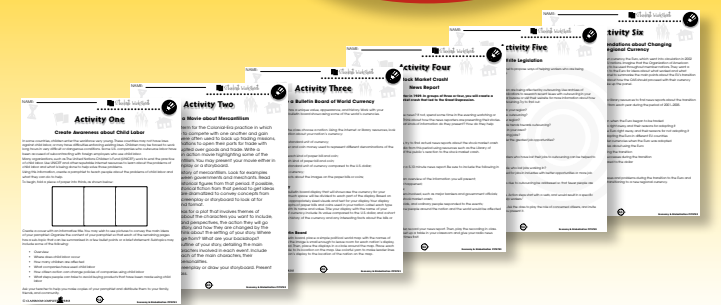
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# Multinational Corporations

1. a) Use a dictionary to look up the word MULTINATIONAL. Write the definition on the spaces provided.

The definition of **multinational** is:

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- b) Use a dictionary to look up the word CORPORATION. Write the definition on the spaces provided.

The definition of **corporation** is:

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- c) Based on the above definitions, what do you think a multinational corporation is? Write your ideas on the spaces provided.

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2. Match the term on the left to its definition on the right. You may use a dictionary to help you.

1	democratic	a period of one hundred years	A
2	prosperity	a medium for trade; money	B
3	currency	having a representative leadership elected by the population	C
4	century	a living thing's surroundings, including air, water, land, and other living things	D
5	environment	wealth	E



# Multinational Corporations

**C**ompanies that have production facilities, investments, or offer services in more than one nation are called **multinational corporations** or transnational corporations. Multinational corporations existed as far back as the Colonial Empire. The Dutch East India Company (VOC), established in 1602, is regarded as the first multinational corporation. It was the first company to issue **stocks**, or ownership shares. In some ways, the company acted as its own government, negotiating treaties and even minting its own currency.

As globalization increased over the last century, large, powerful multinational corporations became much more common. Most multinational corporations are from the United States, Japan, and European Union countries. Many of the largest corporations have economies that are larger than those of developing nations. In fact, some estimates show that of the top 100 economies in the world, about half are corporations and half are governments.



Recognizable logos from multinational corporations



What is a multinational corporation?

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### Debate About Multinational Corporations

As multinational corporations have gained greater power in an increasingly globalized world, so has the debate about these institutions. On one hand, multinational corporations provide employment and create **infrastructure**, such as roads and buildings, in developing or underdeveloped nations. Some people believe that the free trade of goods and services by commercial interests leads to greater prosperity for ordinary people. On the other hand, multinational corporations have the economic power equal to that of many nations, yet they are not governed by democratically elected governments. Large corporations often hire **lobbyists** whose job it is to interact with national and international governing bodies to promote the best interests of the corporation. Products made by the corporations may outcompete locally produced products. There may be a large difference between the salaries of executives and that of ordinary workers. Some people believe that laws must closely regulate the activities of multinational organizations to protect the rights of workers, the economies of developing nations, and the health of the environment.



# Multinational Corporations

1. Answer each question with a term from the list below.

stocks                      lobbyists                      infrastructure  
 Dutch East India Company      multinational corporation

- a) What is a company that has facilities, investments, or offers services in more than one nation?
- b) What are ownership shares in a company?
- c) What was the first multinational company?
- d) What is a word for roads and buildings in a country?
- e) What are people whose job is to interact with national and international governing bodies to promote the best interests of a corporation?

2. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is most correct.

- a) About what percent of the world's largest economies are corporations?
- A 10%
- B 25%
- C 50%
- D 75%
- b) Most of the world's largest corporations come from all of the following, **except**
- A Australia
- B European Union
- C Japan
- D United States



# Multinational Corporations

3. Around the world, many people debate whether multinational corporations have a positive or negative effect on ordinary people's lives.

- a) Explain the positive effects of multinational corporations.

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- b) Explain the negative effects of multinational corporations.

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### Research

#### Make a Poster

4. Find out more about a major multinational corporation. Choose a familiar multinational corporation whose products you use or know about. Visit the company's website or write to the company to find out about:

- annual profits
- the locations of production facilities
- the nations where their products are sold
- the number of people they employ
- the salaries of various positions in the company

Then, using the internet or library resources, find out if there is any debate about the effects of the company on ordinary people in developed or developing nations. Finally, create a poster with information about the company, and a brief summary of its positive and negative effects.

## Activity Two

### Economic Globalization Debate

Set up a class debate about whether or not trends towards economic globalization since the end of World War II have been good for ordinary people around the world.

The debate should cover the following key issues:

- privatization
- the role of multinational corporations
- outsourcing
- migration for economic reasons
- regional free trade agreements
- the role of international trade organizations
- supranational organizations, such as the OAS and the EU

#### Before You Begin

Divide the class in two. One group will be the "pro" group and one will be the "con" group. In each of these two large groups, assign 1-3 students to debate one of the issues in the list above. Students in the "pro" group will take the position that the issue has an overall positive effect on ordinary people. Students in the "con" group will take the position that the issue has an overall negative effect on ordinary people.

#### Do Your Research

Research all of the advantages and disadvantages of your issue.

Write a list of 5 main points that your group would like to make in the debate. After you write your list, try to think of what the other group might say in response to your points. Think about how you will respond to arguments about the points you are making.

#### Conduct the Debate

In the debate, each side will have 2 minutes to make each of their points. Teams will take turns. The "pro" group will make their first point, then the "con" group will have 2 minutes to make an argument against that point. Finally, the "pro" group has one additional minute to respond to the "con" group's argument. Then, the "con" group has 2 minutes to make their first point. The "pro" group will have 2 minutes to make an argument against that point. Then, the "con" group has one additional minute to respond to the "pro" group's argument. This process continues until all of the points have been made.

## Crossword Puzzle!

#### Across

- multinational \_\_\_\_\_ offer goods or services in more than one nation
- laws protect \_\_\_\_\_ property such as art and inventions
- an international agreement
- the movement of people across national borders to live and work
- a medium of trade
- shells were the longest-used currency

#### Down

- the selling of nationally owned assets to a corporation
- the identifying image of a corporation
- a person who migrates to escape war or natural disaster
- protects a logo
- shares in a corporation
- protects an invention
- things from nature needed in order to survive
- trade

#### Word List

- |              |               |           |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| commerce     | immigration   | refugee   |
| copyright    | intellectual  | resources |
| corporations | logo          | stocks    |
| cowrie       | patent        | treaty    |
| currency     | privatization |           |

## Comprehension Quiz

20

#### Part A

Circle **TRUE** if the statement is TRUE or **FALSE** if it is FALSE.

- Cowrie shells were the longest used currency in history.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- The use of metal coins as currency began about 1,000 years ago.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- The goal of the World Trade Organization is to protect the rights of workers.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- Disparities are differences in economic conditions between two areas.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- About 1 in 10 people have crossed national borders as migrants in search of work.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- Most migrant workers are men.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- During outsourcing, jobs usually move from a developed country to a developing country.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- Multinational corporations have existed for over 400 years.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**

#### Part B

On the spaces provided, explain what types of intellectual property are protected by each of the following. Give an example of each type of intellectual property.

Copyright \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

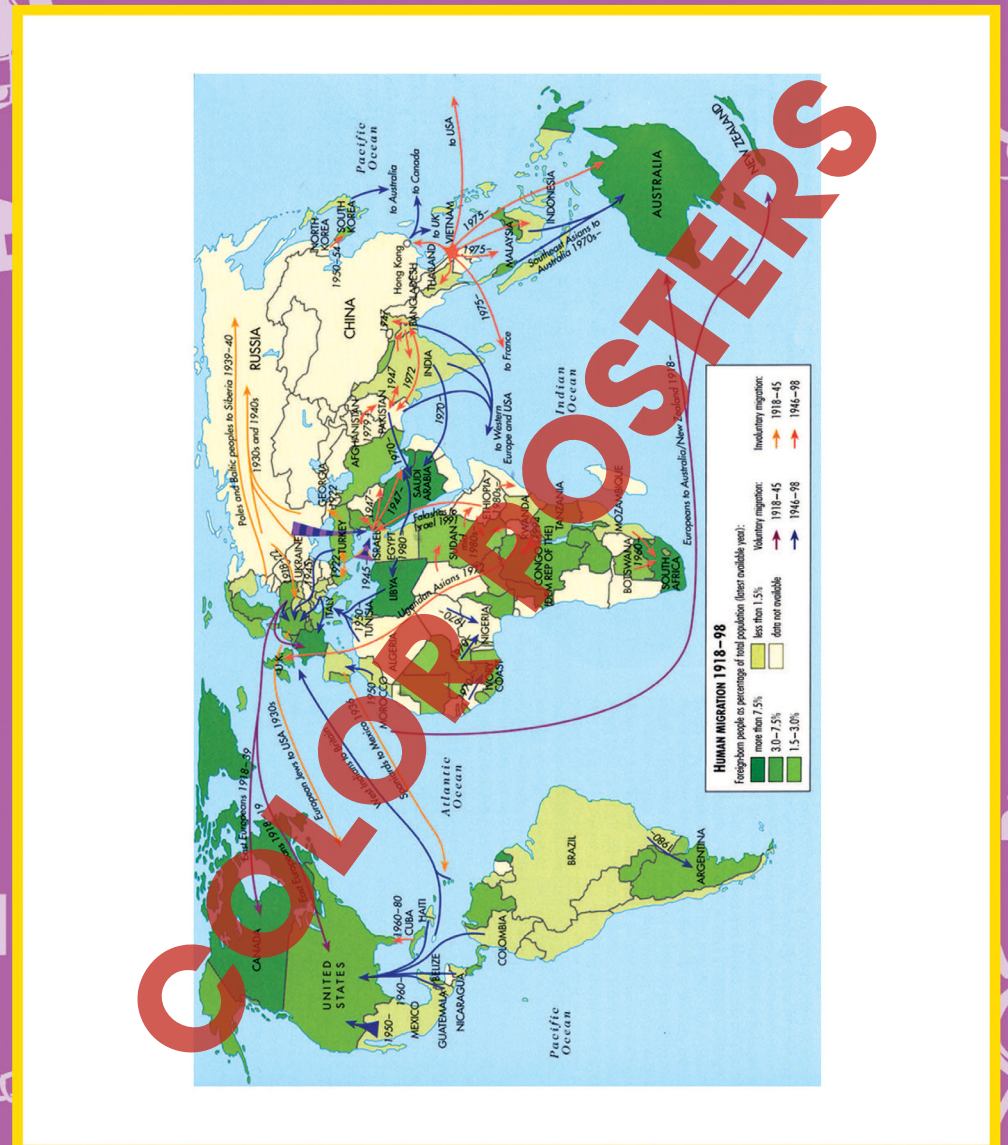
Trademark \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Patent \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Flows of Human Migration





# The Great Depression

3. a) On the spaces provided, define the term **interdependent**. You may use a dictionary to help you.

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b) Explain how the Great Depression showed that economies of different nations around the world are interdependent.

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## Research

### Write a Story

4. How were the lives of ordinary people affected by the Great Depression? Using the internet or library resources, find out how families from different areas of the country and different economic classes were affected by the Great Depression. Try to find first-hand accounts, such as newspaper articles or diary entries from people who lived during that period. You may also ask your family members for first-hand accounts or stories that have been handed down about the Great Depression. You may also want to read some examples of historical fiction about this period.

Using all of the background information you have compiled, write a short story about the lives of a family during the Great Depression. You may want to include some of the following:

- descriptions of the setting in a vagrant camp
- a character who thinks about what life was like before the Great Depression and compares that to his or her current situation
- quotes from newspaper articles that characters were reading
- a post-script describing the main characters' lives 10 or more years after the Great Depression

**ANSWER KEY**

**3.**

a) When a change in one part of a system causes other parts of the system to change in response.

b) In the Great Depression, the production and export of agricultural and industrial products in some nations affected the economies of others, and when U.S. banks failed, other nations' economies were affected.

**1.**

a) Commerce is an interchange of goods and commodities between different countries or different parts of the same country.

b) Commercial is occupied with commerce or the work intended for commerce.

c) Answers will vary.

**1.**

a) intellectual property

b) patent

c) logo

d) trademark

e) supranational

f) copyright

**3.**

a) Copyright protects artistic intellectual property, trademarks protect logos, and patents protect inventions.

b) By unifying economies, passing treaties that promote trade, and sometimes forming a common currency,

**2.**

a) GATT - The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

b) UNCTAD - UN Commission on International Trade Law

c) CSIG - UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods

d) WTO - World Trade Organization

**1** **B**

**2** **C**

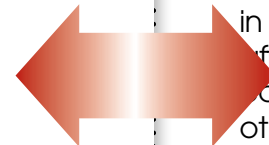
**3** **D**

**4** **A**

**21**

**24**

**25**



# EASY MARKING

# ANSWER KEY

