

Big question: What is Geography all about?

Lesson	Essential Knowledge
1: Trade through time – History of trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalisation is the interconnectedness between countries. Including the trade of goods, services, information and communication. The biggest cause of this is the development of information communication technology (ICT). • Developed countries typically exploit developing and emerging countries due to having cheaper costs such as labour, land and resources. • Developed country typically use emerging/developed countries as an outsourcing process. E.g. manufacturing parts, providing a service which are created and then exported to the UK and other developed countries. • The supply chain is defined as the steps it takes to create something e.g. a mobile phone. From the idea → resources → manufacturing → exporting → consumption • There are various advantages and disadvantages to globalisation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Provides jobs + Consumers benefit from cheaper products + International links + Makes businesses more competitive + Innovation is quicker and more reactive to the market - TNC's don't always look after their environment - People are not always paid a fair wage - Companies are known to have sweat shops (poor working conditions, limited breaks and ventilation) - The overall profit go to the company and not the employees or host country.
2: Made in... Causes of globalisation and consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses which operate in more than country are called transnational corporations (TNC's). • Geographers and economists use TNC's and their distribution as a way of mapping economic development within the world. They even use the prices of a Big Mac to show how wealthy a country is (the Big Mac Index). The higher the price the wealthier. • The majority of products found on the market can be tracked back to a few large companies. Unilever own PG tips, surf, Persil, lynx, Febreze, pot noodle, flora butter, dove to name a few. This expansion means that TNC's own more of the market. • Unilever has pros and cons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Unilever employees 16,000 people in India + Greater income from tax in India. \$4.5 billion + Project Shakti helps poor women in rural villages to become entrepreneurs with over 45,000 people in the scheme + Unilever helps charities to help run hygiene education and provide sanitation to 115 million people in India. - Some profits from Unilever leave India and go back to the UK - Unilever caused environmental problems. Mercury – contaminated glass from Unilever factory ended up in a waste dump - Unilever have been accused of closing factories once local tax breaks ended
3: Introducing the Congo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is located in central Africa. The country borders Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan and Central African Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Kigali and Burundi. • The capital of the DRC is Kinshasa to the west. The majority of the population live in cities such as Kinshasa. • The DRC has a tropical climate with averagely high rainfall and warm temperatures of up to 30°C. towards the south of the DRC it is mountainous.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern cities in the DRC include Mbandaka and Kasangani. Further north are smaller towns and villages in the tropical rainforest. One of the longest rivers in the DRC is the Congo river, starting from the mountains in the south, flowing over 4,700km and finishing in Atlantic Ocean to the West of Africa.
<p>4: Blood in the mobile</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DRC has minerals such as coltan and cassiterite deep underground. These minerals can be smelted into tantalum, a metal that is used in electronic devices. The minerals from the DRC are mined by youngsters and young adults and not owned or protected by governments. The mines to the north of the DRC are often fought over by government armies and rebels, while the miners remain in the middle. Minerals which are mined in locations of conflict are coined as conflict minerals. In 2008 the DRC was ranked as the top 9th country in the world for corruption. Meaning many government officials accept bribes or do not follow the law. Many mines in the DRC are owned by government officials. It is illegal in the UK to be a civil servant and own a private company as the civil servants can manipulate governments for personal gain. Due to the high levels of corruption there is constant fighting between the rebels and governments over control of the mines. The mines are used as a source of making money. Minerals are sold and the rebels take a cut from the miners or the mines may face torture or death. There has been over 5.4 million civil deaths in the DRC.
<p>5 – ethical trade – TNC’s responsibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are various stake holders in the supply chain of electronic goods. These include consumers, suppliers, manufacturers, companies that own the brand, and in specific cases such as conflict minerals, rebels and corrupt governments. There is a widespread debate about who is to blame for the use of conflict minerals. Consumers blame company owners as they have a responsibility to know where their parts come from. Manufacturers blame consumers as without their demand for products there would not be a need for using such minerals. Environmentalists blame manufacturers as they use their supply chain to organise where the parts come from. One thing the stakeholders can agree is that the supply chain is unsustainable.
<p>6 – Combatting the impacts of globalisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foxconn is one of the world largest companies which employs thousands of people in factories in China. For this they also provide housing and entertainment centres. Each year thousands of young adults compete for employment. In recent years Foxconn has been identified as a poor working environment with long hours, unfit air circulation and low pay. Some employees have even committed suicide due to these working conditions. Exploitation of workers doesn’t only happen in emerging countries. The clothing brand Boohoo with textile factories in Leicester have also been identified as having poor working conditions, below minimum wage and even forcing employees to work with a positive Covid-19 test. Consumers have the ability to influence the supply chain by consciously choosing not to buy from brands which exploit vulnerable people or have employees living and working in below standard. There are various organisations that don’t work with governments, called non-governmental organisations which aim to help and people in need from conflict mineral extraction these include Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI). Their projects include in-region sourcing schemes and responsible mineral assurances to companies to ensure their resources are conflict free.

Key word	Definition
1. Globalisation	The interconnectedness between countries through trade, services, information, travel and communication
2. Labour	The cost of employing and paying for workers
3. Supply chain	The steps included to create, manufacture and distribute a product
4. Transnational corporation	A business that operates in more than one country such as Nike, Adidas, McDonald's, Walmart. The profits return to the company's origin country.
5. Tropical Climate	Averagely high rainfall and warm temperatures of up to 30°C throughout the year.
6. Tantalum	A product creates from smelting coltan and cassiterite. This product is used in most electrical goods.
7. Conflict minerals/resources	Resources including minerals which come from areas of conflict, including war, genocide (killing of own countrymen), abuse or exploitation.
8. Stake holders	A group of people within the supply chain or decision-making process. These may include governments, consumers, manufacturers, environmentalists.
9. Corruption	Countries are measured on the corruption Index, meaning the lower the ranking the more corrupt the government may be. Resulting in government officials accepting bribes or working for own personal gain.
10. Exploitation	The process of getting something from someone without fair pay, treatment or emotional stability.