

Wheels and things: Transporting goods



Primary Lesson Plan

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Source

[Making Choices: Primary](#)

Learning area

Studies of society and environment

Level

Middle to upper primary (Years 4 - 7)

Description

Students examine the role of transportation in getting goods to market by designing suitable packaging and preparing an export report.

Purpose

For students to understand that transport is a service that is an essential component in the exchange of goods and services.

Duration

2–3 sessions

Possible outcomes

In relation to *Studies of society and environment — a curriculum profile for Australian schools*, work on this activity could lead to the achievement of outcomes in the following strands:

- **Natural and social systems**
Economic systems
- **Resources**
Management and enterprise

There will be links with other learning areas such as Technology and English.

Materials required

Drawing paper and pens

Procedure

1 Transport and economics

Discuss the role transport plays in the exchange of goods and services with the class.

Transport is a service which relies on other services. Some goods cannot be transported without storage and special packaging.

Goods can be stored in a variety of ways. Individually or in bulk, on shelves, in boxes or in large containers.

Packaging has become an essential part of the transport of goods and helps make sure goods and products arrive safely.

*Transport is part of what is called the **economic infrastructure** (lots of smaller systems that make the big system work: as in households, or in team sports).*

2 No Humpty Dumpty

Students imagine being packaging experts. Producers come to them for help for packing their products in preparation for transport.

They have been asked to design packaging to help the transport and storage of:

- a crystal vase
- home-grown tomatoes
- a chandelier
- a model aeroplane
- a prized rose
- a pet mouse

Each student selects one item from the list.

3 Transport yourself

Students, working in pairs or groups, imagine themselves as a producer of a product about to be exported. Products might include flowers, cheese, ice or computers.

Explain that they are to present an export report to the Department of Trade in order to get a permit to trade. The report will need to include a description of the product (which could in be written or drawn), and information about how and where it will be transported (from factory to final destination).

This is a checklist of information the department has sent you. Make sure your report includes all the following information:

- type of product (fragile, bulky, use)
- contents of the product
- destination (how far, how long)
- reliability
- size and weight
- speed of delivery
- packaging
- cost of the product

Extension activity

Transporting, Packaging and Storing Jobs

Ask the class what different jobs are involved in packaging, transporting and storage of a product. Students list the jobs in alphabetical order. Ask them to try to use at least 18 letters of the alphabet. A job guide from the school library will help them.

Acknowledgments

[Making Choices: Primary](#) was developed jointly by the National Industry Education Forum (NEIF) and [Curriculum Corporation](#).