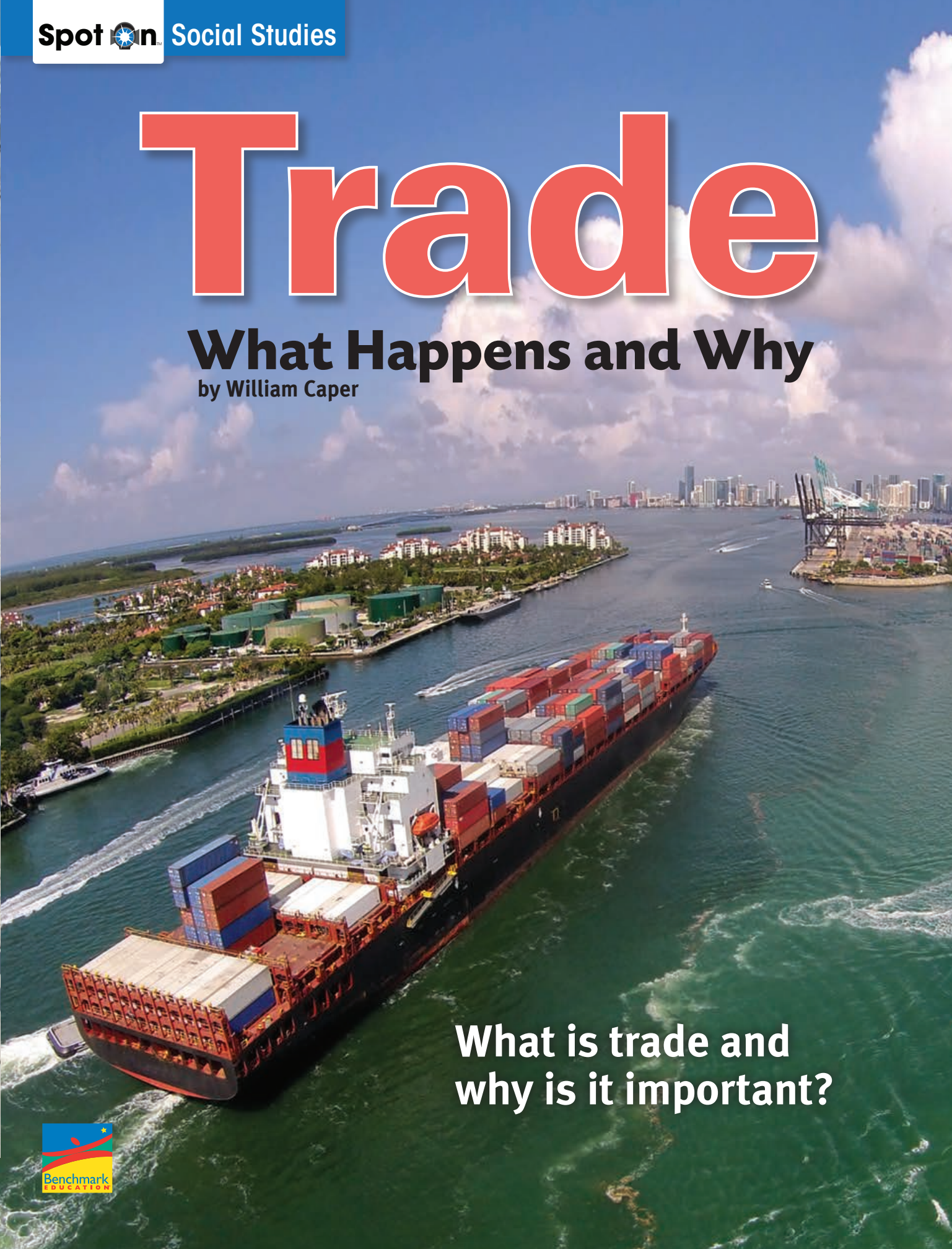
Spot On Social Studies

Trade

What Happens and Why

by William Caper



What is trade and why is it important?

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Trade Affects Us All

Friends sometimes trade baseball cards. Siblings sometimes trade clothes. Trade happens all the time. It happens all around the world. Trade is the process of **exchanging** one thing for something else.

Think about breakfast. This picture shows Carla eating breakfast. Carla didn't grow all this food. Where did all the food come from? Trade.

▼ **Carla lives in the state of Maine. It is too cold there to grow oranges or many other types of fruit.**



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Carla's orange juice came from Brazil. It reached Maine through trade.

Trade has been going on throughout human history. People trade to get things they need or want.

One group of people may have lots of fish, but no corn. Another group may have lots of corn, but no fish. Through trade, both groups can have both fish and corn. Around the world, people get many everyday foods and other items through the process of trade.



Global Trade and Carla's Breakfast

The food in Carla's breakfast came from many different places.

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Trade and Orange Juice

Carla is able to drink orange juice with her breakfast because of trade. The orange juice she drinks has traveled a long distance to get to her table.

These pages show the stages in the orange juice trade that brought the juice from Brazil to Carla in the state of Maine.

1 **Farmers grow oranges, and workers harvest the oranges from the trees.**



2 **The oranges are sold to an orange juice company and shipped to the company's processing plant.**



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3 The oranges are squeezed to produce juice.



4 The bottled juice is shipped to a grocery store.



5 The store sells the juice to customers.



6 This is how Carla's orange juice reached her breakfast table in Maine.



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CHAPTER 1

Foods from Near and Far



The Foods People Have and Don't Have

The types of foods people have and don't have often depend on the **natural resources** in the area where the people live. For example, one resource is farmland. People living in places with poor soil cannot easily farm. So they cannot grow a lot of food. Other people who live in places with good farmland may be able to grow many foods.



Sheep can thrive in rocky areas, whereas vegetables cannot.

Trade is a way people can get the items they cannot grow or make themselves. For example, a woman and her family raise sheep on a rocky mountain in Greece where it's hard to farm vegetables. They get milk from their sheep. They make cheese from the milk.

A man and his family live in a valley in Greece where the soil is good. They grow fruit. But they don't raise animals. So they don't have milk or cheese.

The woman's family trades milk and cheese with the man's family. In return, the man's family gives them fruit.

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▼ People in boats come to trade at this floating market in Indonesia.

Many Ways to Trade

Throughout history, people have traded in different ways. Sometimes two people met to trade. Often, many people gathered together to trade in one place, such as a market.

Sometimes people traded with their neighbors. Other times people traveled long distances to trade. Before there were cars and trucks, traders traveled by foot. Sometimes people had to travel by boat, camel, horse, and other means.

One form of trade involves buying and selling things. When a person buys something, he or she exchanges money for something else. For example, a person might pay money to buy a banana.

Another form of trade is barter. People do not use money when they barter. Bartering is exchanging one thing (like a baseball card) for another thing (like a toy) without money.

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Three Types of Trade

There are three types of trade: **local** trade, **national** trade, and **international** trade.

Local Trade

Some trade takes place over short distances. This is called local trade. An example of local trade is a farmer sending milk a short distance to the nearest town or city.

National Trade

Trade can take place across a country. This is called national trade. Some farmers in Idaho grow potatoes. Ranchers in Texas raise cattle. They send their products all over the United States.

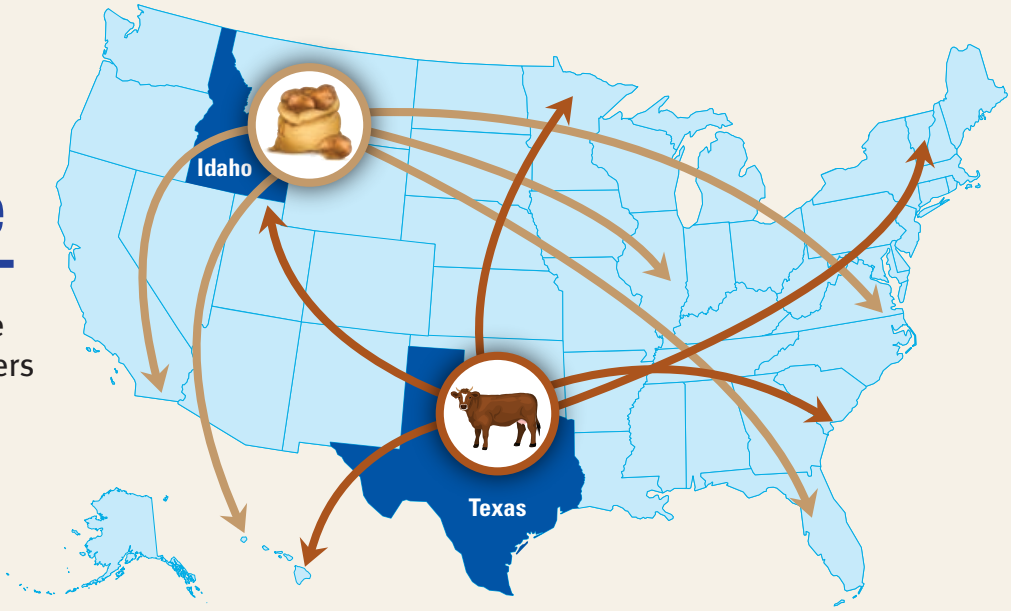


▲ **This farmer sells food locally at a farmers' market.**

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Examples of National Trade

With national trade, people trade their goods with others within the same country.





Examples of International Trade

With international trade, people trade their goods with others in countries around the world.



International Trade

Trade also happens between countries. This is called international trade. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) states that the United States buys a lot of its sugar from Mexico.

One of the oldest examples of international trade involves the Silk Road. This was a trade route that extended for about 6,000 kilometers (4,000 miles).

The Silk Road got its name because traders from China used the road long ago to bring silk to other parts of the world. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), people traded many things on the Silk Road. People traded spices, fruit, metals, gems, and more. The Silk Road made it possible for different parts of the world to trade with one another.

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