



The Geography of My Stuff

Lesson 3: Where do we go to buy our stuff?

TEACHER NOTES

STARTER

In small groups, students write down their three answers to the question: Where (name of shop and location) would you and your family typically go to buy (1) bread (2) shoes (3) a new PC or TV? Students should then compare their responses in terms of (i) the range of locations offered and (ii) the type of stores described (from local grocer to superstore).

MAIN

Where do we go to shop?

The download document summarises the main types of store / location that exist, including neighbourhood convenience stores, CBD comparison stores, out-of-town superstores, street markets and new metro stores. Students should refer back to their answers for the starter activity and compare them with this list.

How have shopping locations changed over time?

Most large retailers now provide on-line information for researchers that tells the story of their early growth (e.g. Tesco, Sainsbury's, M&S). Students with PC access can investigate, working in pairs / small groups. Alternatively, teachers can source and project overhead images. The general shift over time from neighbourhood/CBD general stores to out-of-town retail parks / superstores should be recognised and basic reasons for this trend need to be explored. The key factor (rising incomes driving mass consumption) has already been introduced (in lesson 2) and should be re-emphasised at this point.

What is the 'Food Network' of our local store?

Pupils can study the download document showing the source regions for a range of groceries stocked by a typical supermarket store. Locations are then marked on a world map, and supply-lines drawn, creating a visual representation of the Food Network for a typical UK store.

What are advantages & disadvantages of each type of shopping experience?



This could be completed as a homework exercise or in class. Environmental issues should be thought about (where appropriate), as well as social 'winners' and 'losers' (e.g. can the elderly visit out-of-town stores easily if competition causes their local convenience stores to shut?).

PLENARY

The lesson ends with a question posed to the class. Leisure-time for many involves spending money in retail parks at weekends - what leisure activities still exist that do *not* require some form of financial expenditure e.g. money spent in tea-rooms and gift-shops?