

FOOD

NETWORKS

A **network** is a map showing how different places or people are **linked** together (the London Underground map is a famous example).

Most people have heard of the phrase 'computer network' which is a map showing how the computers in an office are **connected** to one another by cables and wires.

In this exercise, think of a **food network** as a map showing all of the locations where the food sold in a single shop have been grown or produced.

We can draw the food network map by drawing lines linking all of the **source** places where food is grown to the **destination** they are sent to, in this case a London shop. We call a movement of food or goods a **network flow**.

For this activity, you will need a blank map of the world. You can download one from:
www.mapsinternational.co.uk/education_downloads.asp

Instructions

- 1 Look at Table 1 below. It shows the sources of food sold in a London shop. Mark each SOURCE on the blank world map you have downloaded with a cross. Use the world map below (Figure 1) to help you locate each country.
- 2 Write the name of the country next to each cross.
- 3 Mark LONDON on your map with a cross.
- 4 Using a pencil and ruler, draw a link linking each source with London.
- 5 Write the name of each product next to the line that shows its journey.
- 6 Using a ruler and the scale provided on the map, estimate the distance each food product has travelled and write the answer in the third column of the table.
- 7 Add all of the distances together to come up with the total number of kilometres that have been travelled.

Food product	Source	Distance travelled
Sugar snap peas	Guatemala	
Asparagus	Peru	
Pears	Argentina	
Carrots & peas	South Africa	
Chicken	Thailand	
Prawns	Indonesia	
Apples	USA	
Grapes	Chile	
Potatoes	Israel	
Green beans	Kenya	
Coffee	Ethiopia	
Tomatoes	Spain	
Lamb	New Zealand	

Table 1



World Map



Figure 1