

Trading and Bartering

Subject: Social Studies / Economics

Utah Core: World Civilizations Standard 6.1.4

Duration: 45–60 minutes

Lesson Type: Hands-on interactive activity

Learning Objective / “I Can” Statement

- I can trade and barter to get the items I need to survive.
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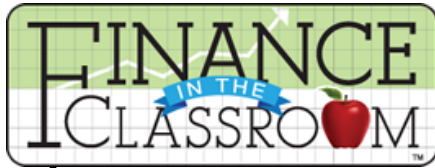
Materials

- Supply cards (food, clothing, shelter, tools, etc.)
 - Service cards (farming, sewing, hunting, building, etc.)
 - Whiteboard or chart paper
 - Pencils and paper for brainstorming
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Lesson Procedure

1. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Ask the class:
 - “How did Native Americans get what they needed to survive?”
 - “What are some ways people in the past obtained food, shelter, and clothing?”
- If no one mentions it, introduce **trading and bartering**:
 - **Trading:** an exchange of property usually without using money.



- **Bartering:** to trade by exchanging one commodity for another; trade goods or services for other goods or services.
 - Have students create **one sentence for each word** using it correctly.
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2. Brainstorming (5–10 minutes)

- Students list:
 - **Items they need to survive** (food, shelter, clothing).
 - **Supplies or services they currently have** (examples: blankets, water, farming skills, sewing skills).
 - Discuss how people prioritize needs versus wants.
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3. Trading and Bartering Activity (15–20 minutes)

- Hand out **6 cards** to each student (mix of supply and service cards).
 - Explain the goal: **Use trading and bartering to get everything needed to survive (food, shelter, and clothing).**
 - Students interact in the classroom, negotiating trades or bartering to achieve their goal.
 - Encourage students to think strategically:
 - “Is this a fair trade?”
 - “Does this trade help me survive?”
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4. Reflection and Discussion (10 minutes)

- Have students share their experiences:
 - “What strategies worked best?”
 - “What challenges did you face while trading or bartering?”
 - “Did anyone make a trade they later regretted?”



- Reinforce the importance of **trade and barter in history** and how it allowed people to meet their needs without money.
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Assessment

- **Observation:** Watch student interactions to see if they are trading and bartering effectively.
 - **Exit Ticket:** Students write a few sentences explaining:
 - What they traded or bartered,
 - What items they acquired,
 - How trading helped them survive.
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Extension (Optional)

- Introduce **currency** and discuss how bartering eventually led to money.
- Have students reflect on **modern examples** of trading and bartering (online marketplaces, swap events, etc.).

Trading and Bartering: Student Activity Sheet

Objective: I can trade and barter to get the items I need to survive.

Step 1: Learn the Words

- **Trading:** An exchange of property usually without using money.
- **Bartering:** To trade by exchanging one item or service for another.

Your Task: Write one sentence for each word using it correctly.

Step 2: Brainstorm

1. List **3 items you need to survive** (food, shelter, clothing):

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. List **what supplies or services you currently have** (cards you might get):

- _____
 - _____
 - _____
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Step 3: Trading & Bartering Game

Goal: Use your cards to get everything you need to survive: **food, shelter, and clothing.**

How to Play:

1. Each student gets **6 cards** (mix of supplies and services).
 2. Walk around and trade or barter with classmates.
 3. You can trade supplies for supplies, services for services, or a combination.
 4. Make the **best trades possible** to meet your survival needs.
 5. You have **15 minutes** to complete your trades.
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Step 4: Reflection

After the game, answer:

1. What items did you trade or barter?
 2. Did you get everything you needed to survive?
 3. What strategy helped you the most?
 4. What challenges did you face?
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Sample Cards

Supply Cards (Food, Clothing, Shelter, Tools)

- Corn
- Fish
- Deer Meat
- Blanket
- Shelter (Tent or Hut)
- Firewood
- Water
- Basket
- Rope

Service Cards (Skills or Help)

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Farming
- Sewing
- Building Shelter
- Gathering Wood
- Cooking
- Carrying Goods

Instructions: Cut out each card. Shuffle and distribute **6 cards per student**.