Lesson Plan: US–Canada Trade Relations (with an Emphasis on Georgia)

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Description:
This lesson will inform students about US – Canada trade relations. After students review key aspects of Canada’s economic ties with the United States, students will also learn about the state of Georgia’s economic ties with Canada.

There are three components to the lesson:

1) A brief PowerPoint that gives an overview of US–Canada trade relations and key economic vocabulary terms. Cloze notes are provided for students to fill in while viewing the PowerPoint;
2) A data sheet about the economic ties between Canada and the state of Georgia. The one provided here can be used by teachers as a model for use in other states. Students will use the graphs and charts to draw conclusions about Canada and Georgia’s economic ties;
3) A writing assignment that requires students to write a letter to either the Governor of the state or the Canadian Ambassador to the United States that explains why trade relations between our state and Canada are important.

Grade Level: Grade 6

Subject: Social Studies

Duration: 60+ minutes

Goal:
The goal of this lesson is for students to become more informed about the trade relationship between the United States and Canada as well as the economic ties between Canada and the state of Georgia. This lesson reinforces skills in the areas of vocabulary building, analyzing graphs, and expository writing.

Objectives: Students will:
• View and take notes about US – Canada trade relations and key economic vocabulary words;
• Analyze and draw conclusions using data from charts and graphs;
• Write an expository essay that explains the importance of the economic ties between Georgia and Canada.

Standards:
Georgia Performance Standards: SS6E2 - The student will give examples of how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Latin America and the Caribbean and Canada:
a. Explain how specialization encourages trade between countries;
b. Compare and contrast different types of trade barriers, such as tariffs, quotas, and embargos;
c. Explain the functions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA);
d. Explain why international trade requires a system for exchanging currencies between nations.

Background Information
Students should have some prior knowledge about economic systems and principles in regards to trade.

Materials:
• US–Canada Trade Relations PowerPoint (projector/ computer required)
• US–Canada Trade Relations Cloze Notes (one per student)
• Georgia and Canada Economic Relations Data Sheet (class set)
• Drawing Conclusions about Georgia and Canada’s Economic Relations (one handout per student)
• Georgia and Canada Economic Ties Essay Assignment (directions and rubric - one per student)

Procedures:

1. Write the following questions on the board and allow students a few minutes to brainstorm their answers, and then instruct students to discuss with an elbow partner their answers. After a few more minutes, have a whole class discussion about which country students think is the number one trade partner with the United States.
   a. “Which country is the number one trade partner with the United States?
   b. Why?”
2. Tell students that the number one trade partner for the United States is Canada and, in today’s lesson, students will learn about the trade between Canada and the United States as well as trade between Canada and Georgia.
3. Distribute copies of the US–Canada Trade Relations Cloze Notes (see Page 3).
4. Show the US–Canada Trade Relations PowerPoint (see Supplement 1 online). As they view the slide show, students will fill in the cloze notes handout.
5. Distribute the Georgia and Economic Relations Data Sheet (see Pages 4-5) to students. Students will use this sheet to answer questions on the Drawing Conclusions about Georgia and Canada’s Economic Relations handout (see Page 6).
6. Provide each student with the Georgia and Canada Economic Ties Essay Assignment (see Page 7) and explain directions for writing the essay about the importance of Georgia and Canada’s economic ties.
7. Students can share their essays as time allows.

Evaluation/Assessment:

Evaluation of the lesson will be based upon the completed essay about Georgia and Canada’s economic ties (rubric shown on Page 7).
A Tale of Two Countries: US–Canada Trade Relations (Cloze Notes)

1. Basic Trade Vocabulary
   • Export
   • Import
   • Voluntary Trade
   • Trade Barriers
   • Specialization
   • Exchange Rate

2. US–Canada Trade
   • Canada and the US both have ________________.
   • Largest ________________ relationship in the world – valued at ________________ in 2011.
   • Canada is the #1 foreign supplier of ________________ to the United States.

3. Side by Side Comparison - How do the economies of Canada and the U.S. compare?

4. What are 3 things Canada specializes in?
   a. ________________
   b. ________________
   c. ________________

5. What are 3 things the United States specializes in?
   a. ________________
   b. ________________
   c. ________________

6. Exports and Imports
   Canada
   • _______ of exports go to the US.
   • _______ of imports come from the US.
   United States
   • _______ of exports go to Canada.
   • _______ of imports come from Canada.

7. Making Trade Easier
   The North American Free Trade Act (also known as ________________) was signed in ____________
   and promoted ________________ trade between ________________, ________________, and ________________
   by removing economic ________________.

8. Exchanging Currencies - Why do countries need to have an exchange rate?

Georgia and Canada Economic Relations Data Sheet
All information from: http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca

Just the Basics:
- Georgia’s largest export market: Canada
- Georgia sells more to Canada than to the state’s next 2 largest export markets combined
- 17% of foreign-bound exports go to Canada
- 249,200 jobs in Georgia depend on trade with Canada
- 148 Canadian-owned companies in Georgia employ 14,217 people
- Georgia exports to Canada: $4.5 billion
- Georgia imports from Canada: $3.9 billion

Georgia exports $4.5 billion in goods to Canada

Georgia imports $3.9 billion in goods from Canada
Drawing Conclusions about Georgia–Canada Economic Ties

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper, if needed.

Use the Georgia–Canada Trade Relations Data Sheet to answer the questions below.

1. Which country is Georgia’s largest export market?
2. How many jobs in Georgia depend on trade with Canada?
3. How many Canadian-owned companies are in Georgia? How many people do they employ?
4. What is the value of goods Georgia exports to Canada?
5. What is the value of goods Georgia imports from Canada?

Consider the two pie charts about Georgia’s imports and exports from Canada to answer the questions below.

6. What is the most exported type of good to Canada?
7. What is the most imported type of good from Canada?
8. What types of goods does Georgia mainly import from Canada?
9. Does Georgia import or export more agriculture products to Canada?

Consider the two bar graphs about the top imports and exports from Canada to answer the questions below.

10. What is the top import from Canada? Why is this product important?
11. Why do you think motor vehicle parts are both imported and exported from Canada?
12. Compare the top import and top export. Which one’s value is larger?

Consider the bar graph about tourism to answer the questions below.

13. Do more people from Georgia visit Canada or do more Canadians visit Georgia?
14. Why is the number of tourists from Canada coming to Georgia important?

Write a phrase that summarizes Georgia–Canada economic ties using exactly 10 words.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________.
Georgia–Canada Economic Ties Essay Assignment

Writing Situation: We have been studying the strong economic ties between our state and Canada. Imagine that the Governor of Georgia and the Canadian Ambassador to the United States are planning to have a meeting to discuss trade soon BUT both do not believe that the Georgia-Canada trade relationship is important.

Writing task: Write a letter that is at least two paragraphs long (and at least five sentences per paragraph) to either the Canadian Ambassador or the Governor of Georgia explaining the importance of Georgia-Canada trade. You must include at least three facts to support your explanation.

Your essay will be graded based on the following rubric.

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<th>Component</th>
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<th>Your Score</th>
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<td>Clear, controlling main idea</td>
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<td>3 facts supporting your main idea (5 points each)</td>
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<td>Mechanics – grammar and spelling</td>
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<td>Organization and flow</td>
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