

THE BARTER GAME

Complete Classroom Simulation Packet

Why Money Beats Barter

Essential Question: Why did societies move from barter to money-based economies?

Teacher Directions (Step-by-Step)

Purpose: Students experience the inefficiency of barter by trading goods without money.

Preparation: Print and cut cards. Give each student one card. Large classes may partner; small classes may give some students two cards.

Explain Cards: Top shows what they PRODUCE. Bottom shows what they NEED. Goal is to end holding the needed item.

Rules: No partial trades. Cards must fully change hands. Every trade is recorded. Trades require mutual agreement.

Round 1 (8 min): Students move and negotiate trades.

Status Check: Ask who has their needed item.

Round 2 (8 min): Students try again using strategy and trade chains.

Debrief: Discuss number of trades, obstacles, and how money reduces transaction costs.

Write on board: Double Coincidence of Wants, Transaction Costs, Specialization, Medium of Exchange.

Student Trade Record Sheet

Trading Cards

<p>■ Stone Blocks</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Stone Blocks</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Clay Pots</i></p>	<p>■ Clay Pots</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Clay Pots</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Leather</i></p>
<p>■ Leather</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Leather</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Iron Tools</i></p>	<p>■ Iron Tools</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Iron Tools</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Rope</i></p>
<p>■ Rope</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Rope</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Corn</i></p>	<p>■ Corn</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Corn</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Soap</i></p>
<p>■ Soap</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Soap</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Baskets</i></p>	<p>■ Baskets</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Baskets</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Fish</i></p>

Trading Cards

<p>■ Fish</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Fish</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Wheat</i></p>	<p>■ Wheat</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Wheat</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Timber</i></p>
<p>■ Timber</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Timber</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Bread</i></p>	<p>■ Bread</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Bread</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Milk</i></p>
<p>■ Milk</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Milk</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Chickens</i></p>	<p>■ Chickens</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Chickens</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Salt</i></p>
<p>■ Salt</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Salt</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Beef</i></p>	<p>■ Beef</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Beef</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Cheese</i></p>

Trading Cards

<p>■ Cheese</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Cheese</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Candles</i></p>	<p>■ Candles</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Candles</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Wool</i></p>
<p>■ Wool</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Wool</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Horseshoes</i></p>	<p>■ Horseshoes</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Horseshoes</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Stone Blocks</i></p>
<p>■ Stone Blocks</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Stone Blocks</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Clay Pots</i></p>	<p>■ Clay Pots</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Clay Pots</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Leather</i></p>
<p>■ Leather</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Leather</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Iron Tools</i></p>	<p>■ Iron Tools</p> <p>YOU PRODUCE <i>Iron Tools</i></p> <p>YOU NEED <i>Rope</i></p>