

CHAPTER 1

To what extent does globalization influence my life?

Social Studies 10

Ms.Gill

Globalization

A process that is making the worlds citizens increasingly **connected** and **interdependent**

Economic, Social, and Political Globalization

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graph TD; A[Economic, Social, and Political Globalization] --> B(Economic Dimensions of Your World); A --> C(Social Dimensions of Your World); A --> D(Political Dimensions of Your World); B <--> D;
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Economic Dimensions of Your World

Do you buy items that originate in other countries? Do you, a family member, or someone in your community work for a business that has expanded its operations into other countries?

Social Dimensions of Your World

Do you ever listen to music created by international artists or watch television shows made in other countries? Do you wear jeans, which are an American innovation?

Political Dimensions of Your World

Are your political representatives ever influenced by international pressure or the treaties that they sign? Do they ever respond to global events by providing disaster relief on your behalf?

Economic Dimension



To what extent does globalization influence your life?

Take a few minutes and make a list of 10 things you purchase the most/most enjoy purchasing...

Now, answer the following questions for each item you listed:

- Where do you purchase these items from?
- Where is this product made?
- What do you know about the company you purchase this product from?

Things to consider...

- What patterns do you notice? Why do you think this is?
- Why don't we produce these products in Canada?
- What are some benefits of our shopping choices and results?
- What are some drawbacks?
- How does this illustrate globalization?



Exporting and Importing

In 2004 alone, Canada exported \$429 billion worth of goods and services. In the same year, we imported \$363 billion worth of goods and services.

The import and export of goods is the simplest form of global integration. Globalization has reinvented the way companies operate in our world.

Let's take a look at one form of economic globalization: the growth of **transnational companies**.

Transnational Companies

Corporations that operate in two or more countries

Can you think of any examples?



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Legend	
1.5x	Thick line
1.0x	Medium line
0.5x	Thin line
0.2x	Very thin line

Walmart

Save money. Live better.



The Wal-Mart Phenomenon

Wal-Mart (an American chain) arrived in Canada in 1994 when it purchased 122 former Woolco stores.

In 10 years, it grew to 288 stores in this country.

There are varying opinions on whether or not this was/is a good thing....



OPINIONS ABOUT WAL-MART

What Wal-Mart customers might say

- I always buy at the lowest price. Wal-Mart is so large it can buy in bulk. Therefore, it can offer lower prices than smaller local retailers can.
- To survive, competitors must match Wal-Mart's low prices. This is also good news for budget-conscious consumers like me.
- I like one-stop shopping. I can buy almost anything I want at Wal-Mart—from gasoline to vegetables, and from clothes to electronics.
- Wal-Mart stores provide employment for local workers, particularly teenagers and seniors.

What Wal-Mart critics might say

- Local, Canadian shop owners go out of business because they cannot make enough money to survive. Town main streets become “dead retail zones,” with nothing but second-hand stores and coffee shops.
- People lose their jobs in businesses that close down.
- Wal-Mart offers low wages, with limited employee benefits or opportunities for advancement.
- Wal-Mart contributes to urban sprawl because people see less need to live in traditional “downtown” locations.
- Wal-Mart buys 70 per cent of what it sells from China. This takes business away from Canadian producers.

What's your opinion on Wal-Mart?

- Which side puts forward the strongest arguments?
- Do the benefits of lower price and convenience justify the problems cited by the critics?
- How might these impacts of economic globalization affect you, now or in the future?

Social Dimension



Society

A group of people who form an ordered community centered on kinship, an ideology, a religion, a language, or a particular world view.

To what extent does globalization influence your social life?

Take a few minutes and make a list of 10 groups you feel like you're a part of...

Now, answer the following questions for each item you listed:

- When did you become a part of this group?
- Why do you feel connected to this group?

Things to consider...

- Globalization is more than the mere transfer of goods – it is also the transfer of culture. The clothing you wear, the music that you listen to, the movies and television shows you watch – these are all part of the social dimension of your life
- What's in fashion right now?
- What's your favourite t.v. show?
- Do you listen to music created by international artists?



Political Dimension



To what extent does globalization affect political aspects of people's lives?

- Consider the highest level of political decision making in our country...
 - Political Pressure
 - International Agreements
 - Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Aid
- Canada belongs to various global organizations
 - G8
 - United Nations
 - NATO

Things to consider...

- Political globalization can affect more than humanitarian efforts. It can even influence the form of government that citizens of a nation choose for themselves.
- Democracy is an example of a political idea that has been spreading from country to country for centuries. Does this mean that democracy is the best system of governance for all peoples? Is it “one size fits” all?
- What about the spread of other political ideas... or movements?

Some people in Canada and elsewhere think of globalization as something that happens to other people in other places. What does this editorial cartoon suggest about that idea? Has your opinion on this idea changed since we began this chapter? If so, how has it changed?

