



Lesson Plan: Understanding the Benefits of Free Trade

Using *Game of Thrones* Clips

Theme: Exploring the benefits of free trade through economic insights from *House of the Dragon* and *Game of Thrones*.

Learning Objectives

1. Analyze how trade restrictions affect supply, prices, and market behavior using *House of the Dragon* as an example.
 2. Compare historical wealth accumulation methods with modern trading practices using Theon Greyjoy's argument.
 3. Identify the benefits of free trade, including increased supply, lower prices, and cooperative wealth generation.
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Materials Needed

1. Clip 1: *Chicken Prices and Blockades* (<https://econthrones.com/trade-restrictions-cause-chicken-prices-to-increase-in-house-of-the-dragon/>)
 2. Clip 2: *Markets vs. Plundering* (<https://econthrones.com/markets-vs-plundering/>)
 3. Chart illustrating supply and demand changes due to trade restrictions.
 4. Group activity worksheet (provided below).
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Lesson Steps

1. Engage (5 minutes)

- Begin by asking: "What happens to the price of goods when there's a shortage? What happens when trade is unrestricted?"

- Introduce the concept of free trade: Exchange of goods and services without restrictions or barriers, leading to mutual benefits.
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2. Show Video 1 and Have discussion Explore (15 minutes)

- **Begin by showing the video of *Chicken Prices and Blockades*** (<https://econthrones.com/trade-restrictions-cause-chicken-prices-to-increase-in-house-of-the-dragon/>)
- Ask students to go into pairs or small groups to answer the following questions
 - Why have the cost of goods gone up so much?
 - *"What happens to the price of goods when there's a shortage? What happens when trade is unrestricted?"*
 - With the blockade, the price went up. What would happen if there was a maximum price put onto goods by the government? (Answer is the shortages become even more widespread.)

3. Show Second video and Have discussion Explore (15 minutes)

- **Show the video of *Markets vs. Plundering*** (<https://econthrones.com/markets-vs-plundering/>)
 - Ask students to go into pairs or small groups to answer the following questions
 - Compare Theon Greyjoy's argument for cooperation and trade to his father's preference for plundering.
 - How does trade create wealth differently from plundering? (*Trade allows wealth generation without harming others, benefiting both sides.*)
 - How do countries currently vs. historically allow for wealth creation? Do people create more wealth by trade or plundering? (*Huge shift towards trade and productivity for wealth accumulation.*)
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4. Optional

- Optional Extensions:
 - *Reflection question: "Why is cooperation and trade often more beneficial than restricting trade or relying on plundering?"*

- Activity: Students can research modern examples of trade restrictions (e.g., sanctions on certain countries) and analyze their economic impacts, comparing them to the lessons from the clips.