**Connections:** Across Time & Cultures – Understanding the Effect of Competition (**Economics**)

**Task:** Comparing prices of goods and analyzing the effects

**Purpose:** To appreciate the effect of the Portuguese trading empire

**Instructions:** Portugal’s success in establishing a trading empire in Southeast Asia cost consumers greatly. The price of Asian goods fell to about a fifth of their former price because of their introduction into the market. Your task is to link this same effect to today and provide current examples as if the same thing was happening in the U.S. today.

* What types of goods come from Asia today and are there any similar goods that are produced within the United States? (if you can’t think of any, make something up as if the price of the goods from Asia are cheaper than those from the United States)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Asia** | **~$** | **United States** | **~$** |
|  |  |  |  |
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* Answer the following questions as if this was actually happening.

1. How would a drop in a price of a good or goods affect what you bought?
2. How would a drop in prices affect U.S. companies?
3. How would it affect the people in Southeast Asia?
4. What would be the effects on the economies of countries in Southeast Asia? The United States?

**Competition Questions (pgs. 529, 533-35)**

1. Why were merchants able to sell spices at a high price?
2. Why were the Portuguese determined to prevent Muslim traders from continuing their spice trade?
3. How was the Dutch East India Company able to drive out the English & Portuguese?
4. Why didn’t the Europeans have more influence on the countries of Southeast Asia?

**Primary Source:** Understanding the Treaty of Tordesillas

**Task:** Use primary sources and maps to identify events and their effects

**Purpose:** To compare historic treaties with present day maps

**Instructions:** You will work in a small group to study the Treaty of Tordesillas and to explain it to the class.

* You will receive a copy of the primary source, The Treaty of Tordesillas. As a group read the source and take notes on your copy.
* Using a world map or globe, locate the Cape Verde Islands off the coast of west Africa & decide where the Line of Demarcation would be drawn based on what you read in the primary source (Hint: a league is approximately 3 statute miles).
  + Where in the world would it be drawn?
* Next, discuss the significance of the treaty to Spain & Portugal. Was the Line of Demarcation fairly drawn? Did anyone have an advantage in the treaty?
* Next, as a group explain the Treaty of Tordesilas in your own words (i.e. explain the agreement & show where the Line of Demarcation would be drawn on a modern map)
* Lastly, as a class we will discuss your answer to the above question and reach conclusions about the fairness of the division of Portugal and to Spain

**Chapter 19, Section 1 MME Content Review (p. 535) – Answer numbers 2-8**

