Lesson Six: Highest-value exports
Each country has a **highest-valued export**. The highest-valued export is the product that makes the country the most money through global trade.
Go to the Business Insider website to discover what each country’s highest value export is.
The physical geography of a country can influence what the highest-value export is.

What determines a country’s highest-value export?

- Natural resources
- Coasts, rivers, lakes
- Climate
Natural resources

Copper mining in Chile, South America

Extraction of Copper Rodrigo Arancibia Zamora,©Flickr
Bodies of water

Fishing boat in Illulissat, Greenland
Cocoa beans only grow in a tropical climate.

Ideal temperature is 18°C - 32°C.

Annual rainfall of 1,500mm - 2,000mm is ideal.
What determines a country’s highest-value export?

- Human geography
  The level of development of a country also influences the highest-value export. e.g. education and skills of population, technology, communications, transport links and accessibility, manufacturing facilities.
Case study: United States of America, North American continent

- The human geography of the USA determines its highest-value export: capital goods (air crafts, motor vehicle parts, computers, telecommunications equipment).
- North America makes the most money from exporting high value and complicated manufactured products.

Why?
- The population have the necessary education and skills to make complicated and expensive products.
- The country has the machinery and technology to produce these items.
- Good transport links and communication systems in the country make it an attractive place for big companies to base themselves.
Case study: Liberia, African continent

- The physical and human geography of Liberia determines its highest-value export: **rubber**. Rubber comes from the rubber tree which produces a milky white sap (latex rubber).

Why?
- Rubber trees require a specific climate (tropical and very humid).
- Education in Liberia was greatly affected by the Liberian Civil War which lasted a total of 14 years. Although it ended in 2003, the country and services are still recovering; supplies are low and there is a shortage of qualified teachers. This reduces peoples’ access to the education that might allow them to work in a much broader range of jobs.
Main Activity

- You will become an ‘export expert’ for one of the areas below:
  - North America
  - Central America & the Caribbean
  - South America
  - Europe
  - Middle East & Central Asia
  - Africa
  - Asia

- You will then join experts representing different areas and teach each other what you know.
Instructions

1) Go to the Business Insider website to find the map of your focus area

2) Choose 4 or 5 different highest-value exports.

3) Go to Google World Map to check which country’s highest-value export it is.

4) Consider how the physical and human geography of each country determines its highest-value export.

Extension Task: Use Britannica Kids website to research more about the country’s geography, imports, and exports. Use the two case study fact cards (USA and Liberia) below to compare the highest-valued exports of the USA and Liberia. Read your card to your partner and fill in the table below comparing the geography of the two countries, relating to their highest-valued exports.
Create groups of seven made up of one expert from each part of the world.

Teach others what you have discovered about the countries and their highest-value exports and record notes.