

Barter Trading Activity Part 1 Directions –

Prepare prior to activity: Print out one (color) copy of the trading cards for each group of eight students. Cut each row of cards out and then along the middle blue line.

Part 1 (SQ2) - Place students into groups of 8 students per group. Pass out trading cards to students. Give each student 2 cards from the same row, meaning each student has one “have item” card and one “want item” card.

Direct students to work within their group trade or barter the item that they “have” in exchange for the item that they “want.” Remind students they can only trade with members of their group. When trading, students exchange “have” cards. Students should keep the want card they started with. When they have successfully traded, their “have” card should match their “want” card. While the students are trading, walk around the groups to check to make sure they’re correctly making their trades. Track and record the amount of time it takes each group to complete all their trades.

After all the groups have successfully traded, discuss the activity with students:

Ask:

How many trades did it take before each person in the group had what they wanted? (A: at least 7)

Was it easy to get the things they each wanted? Why or why not?

What problems did you encounter as you traded? Point out that people are willing to trade when they expect to be better off after the exchange. In order for barter to work, there must be a coincidence of wants between the people trading. This means each person must have something that the other person wants. Sometimes it takes a series of trades to get what you want.

Collect the cards to be used again in part 2.