

WE WORK THE WATERWAYS

Chocolate Chip Cookies Activity Station

Objective: Help students understand how global trade and maritime logistics impact everyday life by using the ingredients of a chocolate chip cookie to explore international shipping routes and the importance of United States waterways.

Background for Educators & Presenters

- Maritime transportation moves **90% of global trade**—over **10.7 billion tons** of goods annually.
- Every country depends on shipping to sell what it makes and to buy what it needs.
- Even domestic goods often travel by barge because it's safer, cheaper, and more environmentally friendly.
- The Mississippi River alone moves **500 million tons** of imports and exports such as; soybeans, cotton, steel, and more each year.

Why Chocolate Chip Cookies?

They taste good and they are a relatable way to show how ingredients from around the world come together through international shipping and logistics among our coastal and inland waterways.

Materials Needed

- Printed photos of each ingredient
- Large, printed world map
- Thumbs-up/thumbs-down paddles (1 per participant) or participants can use their own thumbs to give a thumbs up or a thumbs down.
- Push pins
- Particle board or foam board (to mount map)
- Bucket or container with ingredient cards
- Chef's hat (optional, for volunteer presenter)
- Chocolate chip cookies (for giveaway)

Activity Instructions

1. Introduction

- Ask: *What percent of global trade is moved by ships?*
- Share: *90%! Most of what we use or eat travels by water; raw materials, parts, or finished goods.*

2. Set the Scene

- Invite a student volunteer to wear the chef's hat and act as the "Cookie Captain."
- Give each participant a thumbs-up/thumbs-down paddle or they can use their own thumbs to give a thumbs-up/thumbs-down.

3. Ingredient Challenge

- The Cookie Captain pulls an ingredient from the bucket.
- Ask another student to guess where that ingredient comes from.
- The group votes with a thumbs up if they agree and a thumbs down if they disagree.
- Reveal the correct origin and place a push pin on the map.

Cookie Ingredients & Origin

Ingredient	Origin
Butter	Ireland
Sugar	Louisiana
Flour	Kansas
Eggs	Iowa
Vanilla	Madagascar
Salt	Canada
Chocolate Chips	Mexico

***Repeat until all ingredients are placed on the map.**

4. Wrap-Up Discussion

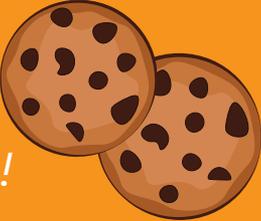
- Highlight how each ingredient traveled:
 1. From farm or factory to port and across oceans to reach a United States port then loaded onto a truck, rail, or barge.
- Emphasize the role that the United States waterways play in moving goods efficiently from our coastal waters and then up the Mississippi River system to the communities across the country.

Close: Give each student a chocolate chip cookie to celebrate their global logistics journey.



Baking Soda

Hundreds of Uses!





BUTTER

NET WT. 4 OZ. (113.4g)

BUTTER

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