Life Skills:
Problem-solving and Decision-making; Working with Groups

What to Do:
Youths will explore the connections they make with products from other countries.

Measuring Success:
Youths will become more aware of the interdependence of the world.

Audience:
3rd – 8th grades

Time Involved:
Two 30-minute sessions

Group Size:
5-30

Preparation and Materials
• A few days ahead of time, begin to identify products and services by their country of origin so you can give examples to youths.
• Paper
• Pencil
• World map with countries labeled (laminate the maps, if possible, for re-use). World maps are available at libraries, schools or on the internet.
• “We’re All Connected” worksheet found in the lesson (one copy for each young person)
• Adhesive dots (optional)

Introduction
We all are aware that many of the foods, products and services used in everyday living come from different countries. Some are very evident, such as bananas, Latino music or foreign-brand cars. Other things may not be as obvious. For example, some foreign brand cars are made here in the United States while some U.S.-brand cars are made or assembled in other countries or have most of their parts made in other countries.
The Activity

How many countries do we have represented among us right now? *(Have youths guess.)* Let's begin to determine the answer by examining all items in the meeting room. Is there a clock on the wall? Where is it from? *(Make a list of all countries—and a running count when there is more than one thing from that country.)* We also can examine our clothes, shoes, purses, etc. *(If clothing labels are obvious, look for the country of origin.)* *(If the world map is laminated, place adhesive dots on all countries represented.)*

Reflect/Discuss

*Share What You Did*

How many countries were represented? Are they clustered in a certain region of the world? Why might that be? What do you know about the countries listed? Do they have anything in common?

*Tell What's Important*

What would happen if we no longer received these products from one or more of the countries? How would that affect you?

Generalize to Your Life

In a 24-hour period, what countries do you come in contact with? For the next meeting, I want you to use the "We're All Connected" worksheet to list all items and their countries of origin with which you have contact. Think about everything, including food products, services and other items. Check your parents' or friends' cars. Where were they made or assembled? At the next meeting, we will compare each others' lists.

*Apply What You Learned*

*(At the next meeting, ask each young person to share his or her list. Begin to identify each country on the world map.)* How many countries do we have represented? How many countries did each of you represent? Let's not forget furniture, food, water, and magazines with international circulation, bicycles, CD's, electronics, toys and gasoline. Even the water we drink is part of a worldwide system.

*More Challenges*

* Explore the working conditions of these countries. What is the average wage? What is the per capita income? How does this compare to the United States?*
We’re All Connected Work Sheet

Identify each item you came in contact with today. Try to identify the country or region of origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Country/Region of Origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lesson Evaluation for Youths: We’re All Connected**

Please read each statement carefully and check if you strongly agree, agree, don’t know, disagree or strongly disagree. Please return this evaluation to:

U of A Cooperative Extension Service  
4-H Youth Development  
2301 S. University Avenue  
Little Rock, AR  72204

After completing the We’re All Connected lesson, I:

Strongly Agree = SA  
Agree = A  
Don’t Know = DK  
Disagree = D  
Strongly Disagree = SD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>DK</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can make connections between products I use and their countries of origin.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand how the world is connected through the products we use and make.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand how water quality varies around the world.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most important thing I learned was:

______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________

Because of this information, I will:

______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________