THE JOURNEY OF EVERYDAY GOODS

Production / Distribution / Consumption

FOLLOW THE GOODS

01	02	03	04	05
LOCATE	**TRACE**	**MEASURE**	**COMPARE**	**DESIGN**
Find each numbered stage.	Follow the arrows between locations.	Read the km between each stage.	How do alternative routes differ?	Map an object of your choice.

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS / 20-30 MINUTES

1 Display a route: ask pupils to identify production, distribution and consumption.

2 In pairs, follow numbered arrows and record each stage and distance (km).

3 Compare coffee and chocolate alternatives: origins, processing and total distance.

4 Students draw their own route on the blank map, then explain who benefits.

PROMPT: How does the global division of labour connect producers and consumers?

YOUR QUESTION

Who gains the most from global production - workers, companies or consumers?

Coffee and chocolate each have two alternatives: blue solid lines and brown dashed lines.

Line pattern and numbered stops remain clear if the sheet is printed in greyscale.

DISTANCES: approximate straight-line km (not actual freight mileage). | Illustrative routes.

PRODUCT 01 / ELECTRONICS

THE SMARTPHONE

iPhone 18 Pro - illustrative supply chain | Final destination: LIVERPOOL

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE



UK DETAIL



STAGE	LOCATION + ROLE	DISTANCE FROM PREVIOUS STAGE
1 COMPONENTS	**Hsinchu, Taiwan** Semiconductor fabrication and specialist electronic components.	**START**
2 ASSEMBLY	**Chennai, India** Representative Indian final-assembly location; parts brought together.	**~4,460 km**
3 UK IMPORT	**Felixstowe, UK** Example UK arrival point for containerised goods.	**~8,110 km**
4 CONSUMPTION	**Liverpool, UK** Delivered to retailers, sold and used by consumers.	**~330 km**

TOTAL ROUTE: ~12,900 km

EXAMPLE: not a tracked shipment.

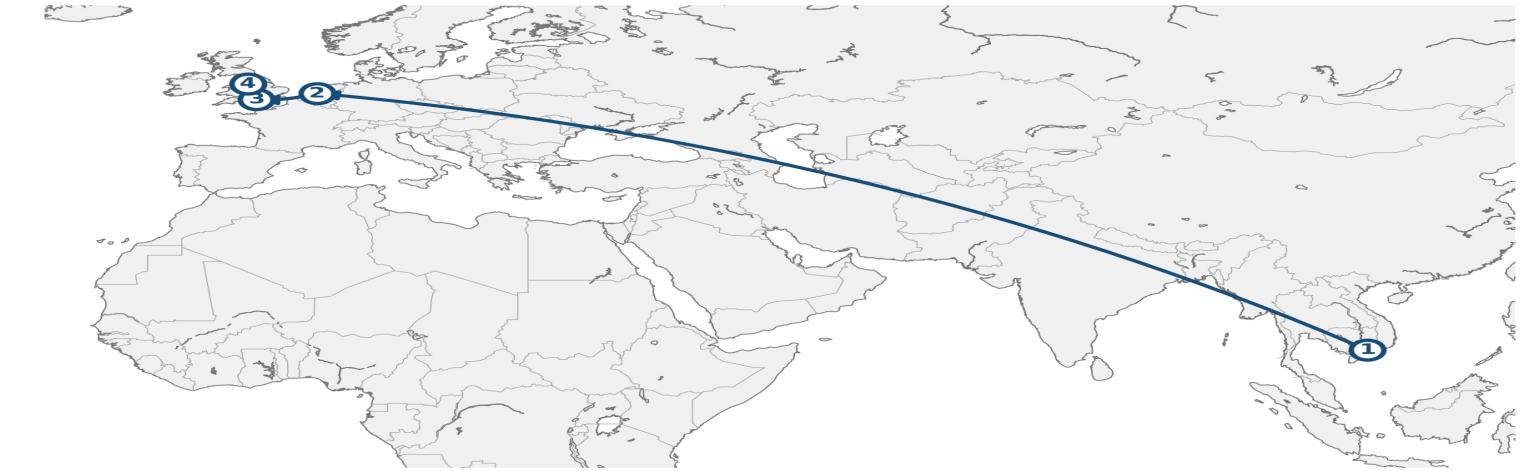
DISTANCES: approximate straight-line km (not actual freight mileage). | Illustrative routes.

PRODUCT 02 / FOOTWEAR

NIKE TRAINERS

Pair of Nike trainers - illustrative supply chain | Final destination: MANCHESTER

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE



UK DETAIL



STAGE	LOCATION + ROLE	DISTANCE FROM PREVIOUS STAGE
1 PRODUCTION	**Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam** Example contract-manufacturing region: materials cut, stitched and assembled.	**START**
2 EUROPEAN HUB	**Rotterdam, Netherlands** Illustrative European freight consolidation and onward distribution.	**~9,880 km**
3 UK IMPORT	**Southampton, UK** Example port: unloading and transport into UK networks.	**~420 km**
4 CONSUMPTION	**Manchester, UK** Retail stock and purchase in Manchester.	**~290 km**

TOTAL ROUTE: ~10,590 km

EXAMPLE: not a tracked shipment.

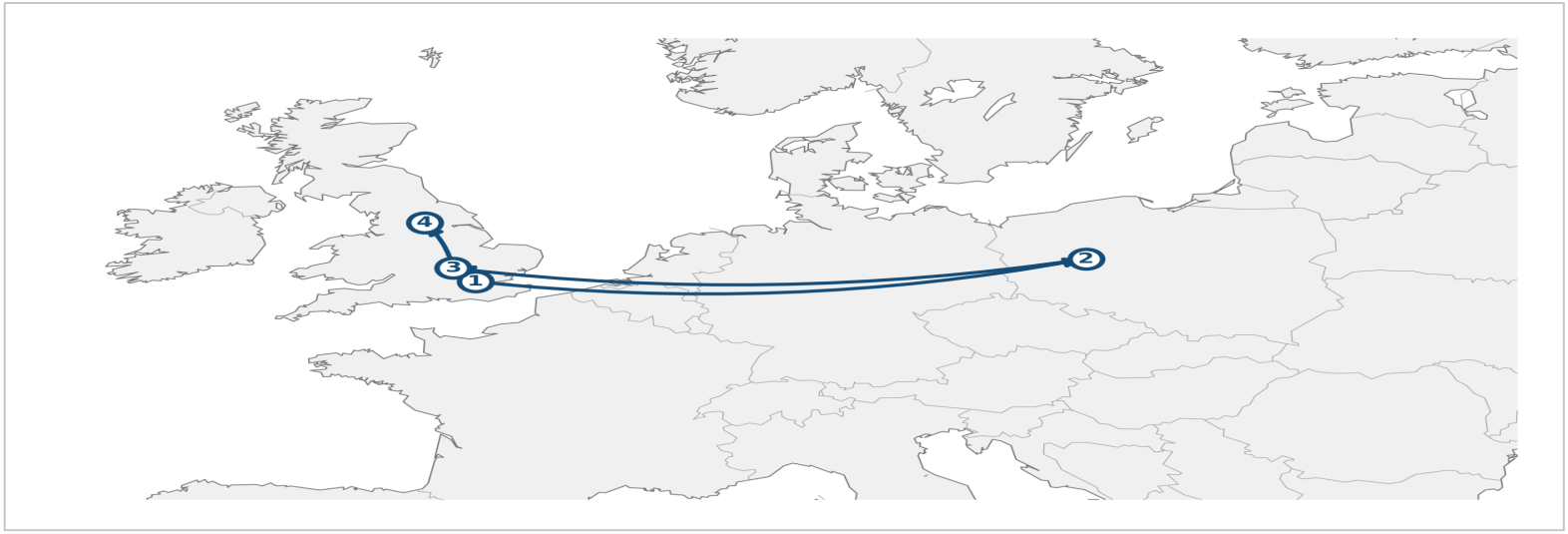
DISTANCES: approximate straight-line km (not actual freight mileage). | Illustrative routes.

PRODUCT 03 / PUBLISHING

SOCIOLOGY TEXTBOOK

UK sociology textbook - illustrative print run | Final destination: LEEDS

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE



UK DETAIL



STAGE	LOCATION + ROLE	DISTANCE FROM PREVIOUS STAGE
1 CREATION	**London, UK** Authors, editors and publishers prepare the text and layout.	**START**
2 PRINTING	**Poznan, Poland** Example European print site: pages printed, bound and packed.	**~1,170 km**
3 DISTRIBUTION	**Milton Keynes, UK** Example warehouse: books stored and orders dispatched.	**~1,200 km**
4 CONSUMPTION	**Leeds, UK** Delivered to a college, bookshop or student.	**~200 km**

TOTAL ROUTE: ~2,570 km

EXAMPLE: not a tracked shipment.

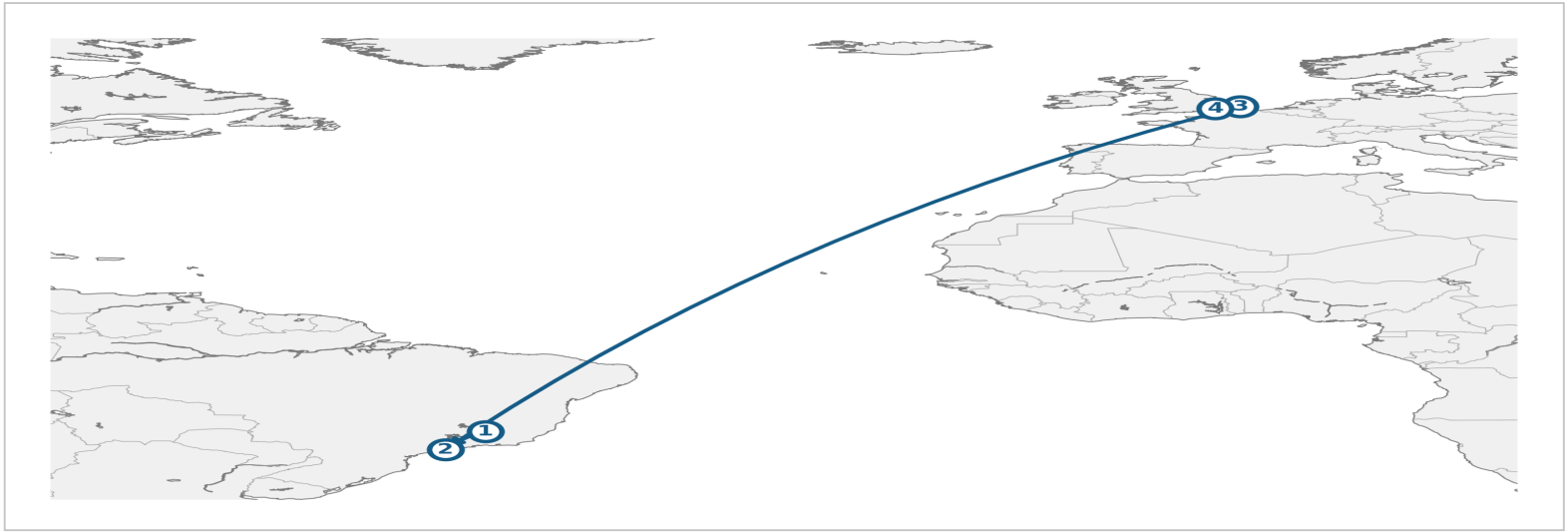
DISTANCES: approximate straight-line km (not actual freight mileage). | Illustrative routes.

The Sociology Guy

COFFEE / ROUTE A

Brazilian coffee - example route A | Final destination: LONDON

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE



UK DETAIL



STAGE	LOCATION + ROLE	DISTANCE FROM PREVIOUS STAGE
1 GROWING	**Minas Gerais, Brazil** Coffee cherries cultivated, harvested and beans dried.	**START**
2 EXPORT	**Santos, Brazil** Green coffee prepared for international shipping.	**~510 km**
3 IMPORT	**Felixstowe, UK** Unloaded, cleared and sent to buyers or roasters.	**~9,630 km**
4 ROAST + DRINK	**London, UK** Roasted, sold through shops or cafes and consumed.	**~110 km**

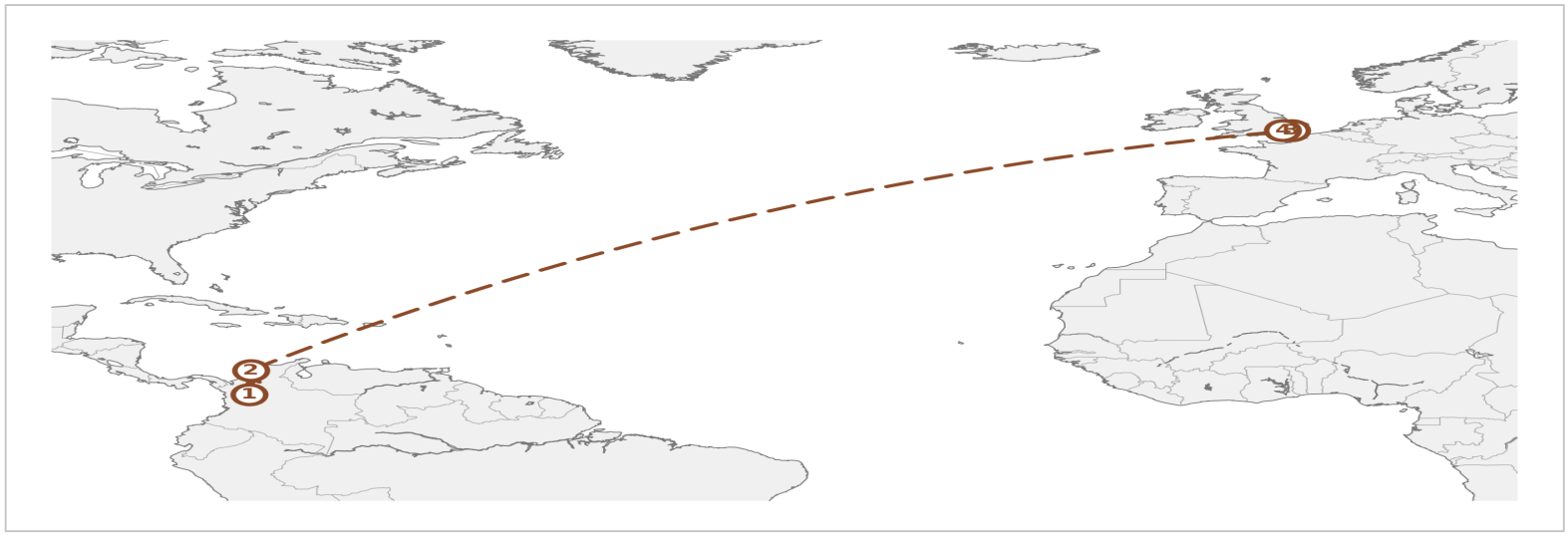
TOTAL ROUTE: ~10,250 km

EXAMPLE: not a tracked shipment.

COFFEE / ROUTE B

Colombian coffee - alternative route B | Final destination: LONDON

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE



UK DETAIL



STAGE	LOCATION + ROLE	DISTANCE FROM PREVIOUS STAGE
1 GROWING	**Medellin, Colombia** Coffee cultivated on farms around the Colombian Andes.	**START**
2 EXPORT	**Cartagena, Colombia** Beans consolidated and loaded for overseas shipment.	**~460 km**
3 IMPORT	**London Gateway, UK** Example container terminal: customs and onward freight.	**~8,140 km**
4 ROAST + DRINK	**London, UK** Roasting, retailing and consumption in the capital.	**~40 km**

TOTAL ROUTE: ~8,640 km

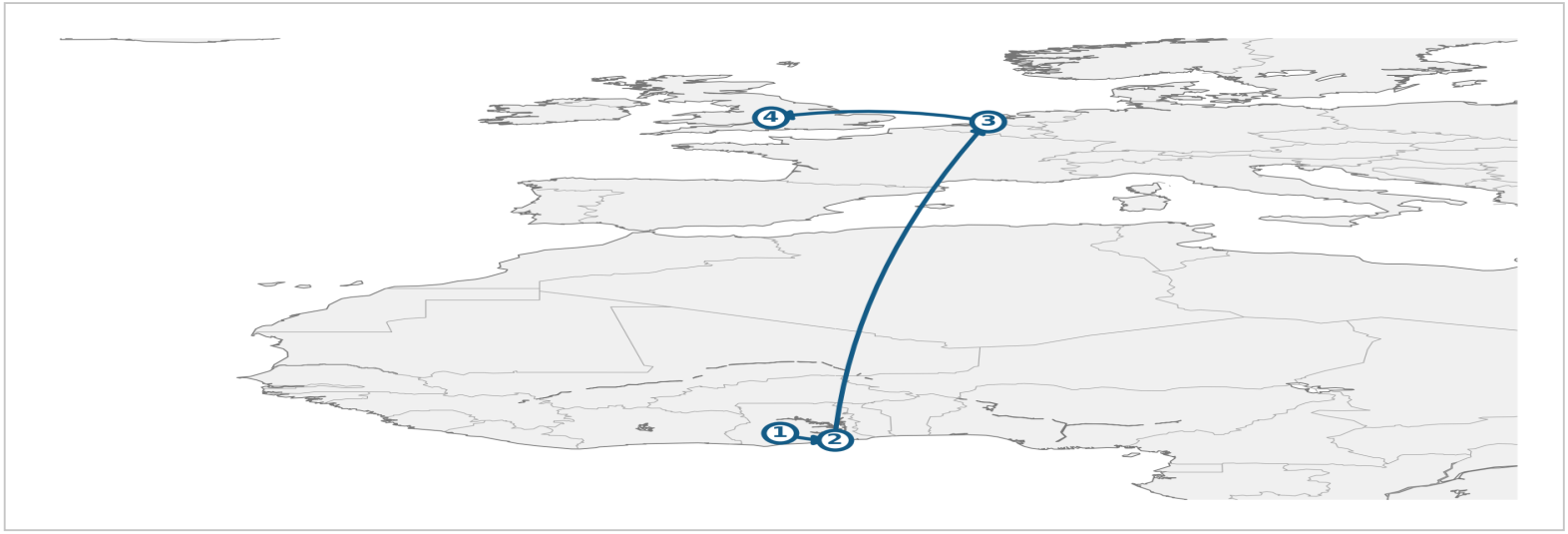
EXAMPLE: not a tracked shipment.

DISTANCES: approximate straight-line km (not actual freight mileage). | Illustrative routes.

CHOCOLATE / ROUTE A

Ghanaian cocoa - example route A | Final destination: BIRMINGHAM

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE



UK DETAIL



STAGE	LOCATION + ROLE	DISTANCE FROM PREVIOUS STAGE
1 GROWING	**Kumasi, Ghana** Cocoa pods harvested, beans fermented and dried.	**START**
2 EXPORT	**Tema, Ghana** Bagged or containerised cocoa prepared for shipping.	**~210 km**
3 PROCESSING	**Rotterdam, Netherlands** Example European trading and cocoa-processing centre.	**~5,160 km**
4 SALE + USE	**Birmingham, UK** Illustrative UK chocolate retail and consumption destination.	**~440 km**

TOTAL ROUTE: ~5,810 km

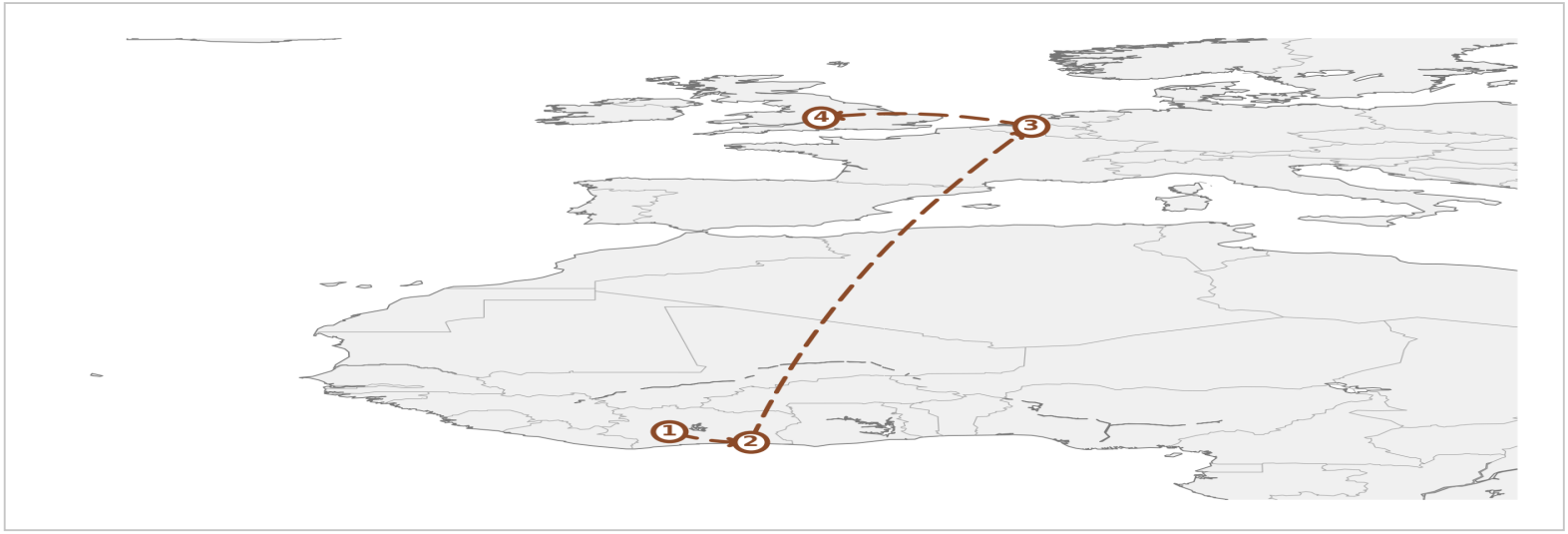
EXAMPLE: not a tracked shipment.

DISTANCES: approximate straight-line km (not actual freight mileage). | Illustrative routes.

CHOCOLATE / ROUTE B

Cote d'Ivoire cocoa - alternative route B | Final destination: BIRMINGHAM

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE



UK DETAIL



STAGE	LOCATION + ROLE	DISTANCE FROM PREVIOUS STAGE
1 GROWING	**Daloa, Cote d'Ivoire** Cocoa cultivated, fermented and dried near farming communities.	**START**
2 EXPORT	**Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire** Example West African export port for cocoa.	**~320 km**
3 PROCESSING	**Antwerp, Belgium** Example European cocoa trade and processing centre.	**~5,160 km**
4 SALE + USE	**Birmingham, UK** Illustrative retail and consumption destination.	**~450 km**

TOTAL ROUTE: ~5,930 km

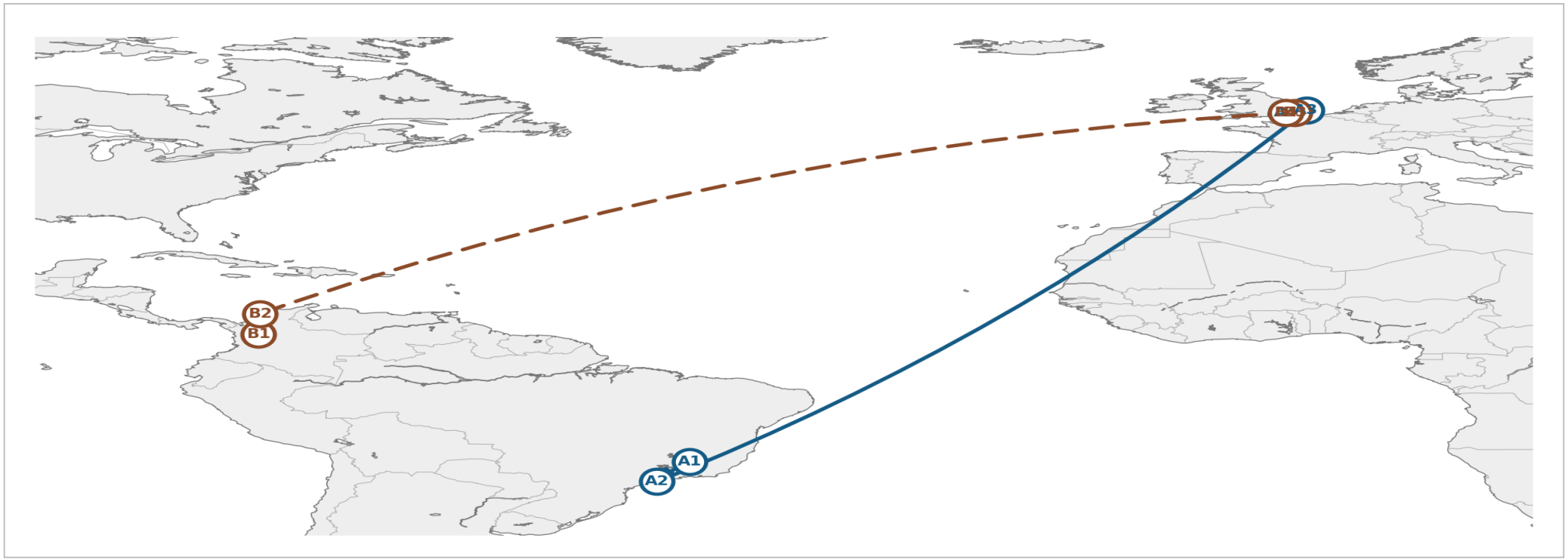
EXAMPLE: not a tracked shipment.

DISTANCES: approximate straight-line km (not actual freight mileage). | Illustrative routes.

COMPARISON / ALTERNATIVE SUPPLY CHAINS

COFFEE - TWO POSSIBLE ROUTES

Blue solid = route A / Brown dashed = route B



A SOLID LINE	Minas Gerais > Santos > Felixstowe > London Growing > Export > Import > Roast + Drink	**~10,250 km**
B DASHED LINE	Medellin > Cartagena > London Gateway > London Growing > Export > Import > Roast + Drink	**~8,640 km**

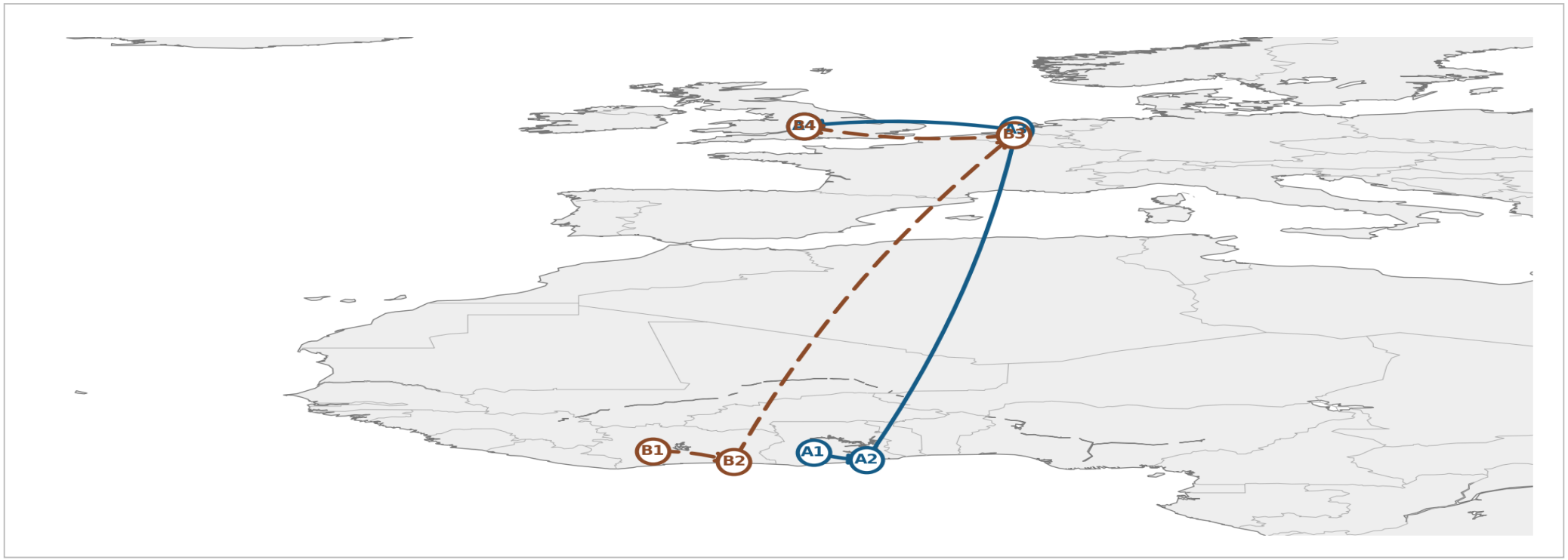
DISCUSS: Why might the same product have different origins, ports and processing locations?

DISTANCES: approximate straight-line km (not actual freight mileage). | Illustrative routes.

COMPARISON / ALTERNATIVE SUPPLY CHAINS

CHOCOLATE - TWO POSSIBLE ROUTES

Blue solid = route A / Brown dashed = route B



A SOLID LINE	Kumasi > Tema > Rotterdam > Birmingham Growing > Export > Processing > Sale + Use	**~5,810 km**
B DASHED LINE	Daloa > Abidjan > Antwerp > Birmingham Growing > Export > Processing > Sale + Use	**~5,930 km**

DISCUSS: Why might the same product have different origins, ports and processing locations?

DISTANCES: approximate straight-line km (not actual freight mileage). | Illustrative routes.

STUDENT WORKSHEET / CREATE YOUR OWN

MAP YOUR OBJECT

Object: _____ Final UK destination: _____

DRAW YOUR ROUTE: NUMBER EACH STOP + JOIN WITH ARROWS



1.	_____	**ROLE:**	_____	~	km
2.	_____	**ROLE:**	_____	~	km
3.	_____	**ROLE:**	_____	~	km
4.	_____	**ROLE:**	_____	~	km

DISTANCES: approximate straight-line km (not actual freight mileage). | Illustrative routes.

TEACHER REFERENCE

HOW TO USE THESE MAPS

Interpretative examples for teaching the global division of labour.

PRODUCTION

Raw materials may be grown or mined in one country. Components, printing or assembly can take place in another.

DISTRIBUTION

Ports, warehouses and freight hubs connect producers to markets. An import country is not necessarily where a product was made.

CONSUMPTION

The final city represents where a product might be bought or used, not the only market for it.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Coffee A: Brazil to London. Coffee B: Colombia to London. Chocolate A: Ghana via Rotterdam. Chocolate B: Cote d'Ivoire via Antwerp.

DISTANCE LIMITATION

All stage distances are rounded great-circle estimates. A ship may travel substantially further. Routes exclude some intermediate journeys.

RESEARCH EXTENSION

Find an actual importer, ISBN, or brand supplier report. Then compare company profits, wages, transport emissions and consumer choice.

STAGE ICON KEY

PRODUCTION / GROWING

ASSEMBLY / PROCESSING

DISTRIBUTION / EXPORT

CONSUMPTION / RETAIL

Route A: solid blue | Route B: dashed brown. Colours and line patterns identify alternatives.