TAKARO · EDUCATOR LESSON PLAN

How do Tariffs work across countries?

Podcast length: ~24 min
Lesson time: 50 min

Episode: *What's Up With These Tariffs on India?*

Listen to the episode

Scan the code or visit takaromedia.com/episodes to hear "How do Tariffs work across countries?"

Learning Focus

Understanding what tariffs are, why countries use them, and how changes in trade policy can affect businesses, consumers, and economies in different countries.

Learning Strands

Primary: Think Critically

Supporting: Understand the News, Understand the World

Key Vocabulary

tariff · export · import · trade · economy · consumer

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Explain what a tariff is and how it affects the price of imported goods.
- Describe why the US and India use tariffs and how reciprocal tariffs work.
- Analyze how a change in tariffs can create both advantages and disadvantages for different people, businesses, and countries.

Learning Outcomes

Students can:

- Explain the effect of a tariff using a simple example.
- Identify how tariffs can affect consumers and businesses in both countries.
- Use evidence from the episode to explain why tariffs can create both opportunities and challenges.

Materials Needed

- Podcast / audio
- Board or chart paper

Before Listening 3 min

Ask students:

> *Imagine you make a product for ₹100 and want to sell it in another country. What might happen if that country charges you an extra ₹20 for bringing your product in?*

If you have time, ask for a few responses, and then ask:

> *Who do you think would ultimately pay that extra ₹20 — the company, the customer, or someone else?*

Listen to the Podcast 19 min

Ask students to listen for three things:

1. What is a tariff?
2. Why has the US put tariffs on products from India and other countries?
3. Who might benefit — and who might lose — from these tariffs?

Check for Understanding 10 min

1. **Recall:** What is a tariff?
2. **Apply:** The episode gives the example of a product worth ₹100 being sold to the US with a 26% tariff. Why might the seller increase the price of the product after the tariff is introduced?
3. **Explain:** What does "reciprocal tariff" mean in the episode?
4. **Cause and Effect:** How could tariffs affect an American family that buys products imported from India?
5. **Think Critically:** Why might India still benefit from tariffs being placed on its products if India also has to pay a tariff?

Choose One 14 min

OPTION A — DISCUSSION

Who Wins and Who Loses?

Ask students to think about tariffs from four different perspectives: an Indian company that exports clothing to the US, an American customer buying imported clothing, an Indian factory worker, and an American company competing with imported products.

- Who might benefit from tariffs?
- Who might be negatively affected?
- Can the same tariff be good for one person and bad for another? Why?

If students need guidance, ask them to use this sentence structure: "The tariff could help ______ because ______, but it could hurt ______ because ______." Then ask: after listening to the episode, do you think tariffs are always good or always bad? Why is the answer more complicated?

OPTION B — EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Follow the Money

Give students this scenario: an Indian company sells a shirt to a US customer for ₹1,000. The US introduces a 26% tariff on the shirt. Ask students to create a simple chain showing what could happen next: 26% tariff → ______ → ______ → ______.

- Who pays the tariff?
- Does the company change its price?
- Does the consumer buy the shirt?
- Could the company try to manufacture somewhere else?
- Could another country's products become more competitive?

Then introduce the episode's larger idea: if another country now has an even higher tariff, could the Indian company actually gain an advantage? Have students explain their answer using the episode.

Exit Ticket 4 min

A tariff is ______. One way tariffs can help a country is ______, but one way they can hurt people or businesses is ______.