

## Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

April 14, 2016

### Article: “The Northwest Seaport Alliance”

Sunday, April 10th, 2016 in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times, **NIE Special Section, page J6-J7.**

#### Pre-Reading:

Look up the words **import** and **export**. How are the meanings similar? How are the meanings different? Look at the list below, which of these things do you think Washington imports through seaports? Which of these things do you think Washington exports through seaports? (If you don't know what these things are, you might want to research it online or find pictures)

1. Oil seeds and grains
2. Prepared vegetables and fruit
3. Electronics
4. Seafood
5. Toys & Games
6. Furniture
7. Fruit
8. Vehicles

Compare your answers with the chart on page 6. What patterns do you notice between what Washington imports and exports?

#### Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today's article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the “context,” or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

*Alliance*

*Cargo*

*Containers*

*Domestic*

*Economy*

*Elected*

*Exports*

*Gateway*

*Governed*

*Imports*

*Marine*

*Port*

*Robust*

*Trade*

*Unify*

*Vehicles*

**Comprehension:**

1. What two ports joined to create The Northwest Seaport Alliance?
2. How many commissioners govern The Northwest Seaport Alliance?
3. What was the estimated value of trade with Alaska in 2015?
4. What does Washington both import and export?
5. How many total jobs are supported by The Northwest Seaport Alliance?
6. How many cruise ship terminals are part of The Port of Seattle?

**Post-Reading:**

What things do you use that are imported and exported by the Northwest Seaport Alliance? What would life be like without those things? Why is trade important?

**Building Language Skills:**

**Complete the activity below:**

Do the following activity to think about imports and exports:

1. Have a friend check the tag on the back of your shirt – where was it made? Write it down on a piece of paper.
2. Take the next several minutes (5-10) to look around the classroom and find other object, adding them to your list along with the country that they were made in. See how many different countries you can find!
3. Share your list with a friend or small group. See if you can work together to locate all the places where you found items from on the map.
4. Compare how many things you found that are made in your country versus that are made elsewhere in the world. How many countries in total did your group find items from? What kind of things are from where? How do you think they got here?
5. Write a short paragraph on what you discovered and why trade is important.

### Comprehension Question Answers:

1. What two ports joined to create The Northwest Seaport Alliance? **The ports of Seattle and Tacoma.**
2. How many commissioners govern The Northwest Seaport Alliance and who are they elected by? **Each port is governed by 5 commissioners (so 10 in total) that are elected by the citizens in their respective counties.**
3. What was the estimated value of trade with Alaska in 2015? **Trade with Alaska was estimated at \$5.4 billion in 2015.**
4. What does The Northwest Seaport Alliance both import and export? **The Northwest Seaport Alliance imports and exports industrial machinery.**
5. How many total jobs are supported by The Northwest Seaport Alliance? **There are 48,100 jobs supported by the NWSA.**
6. How many cruise ship terminals are part of The Port of Seattle? **There are two cruise ship terminals, one at Pier 66 and one at Pier 91.**