

SOS – Call for help



Overview



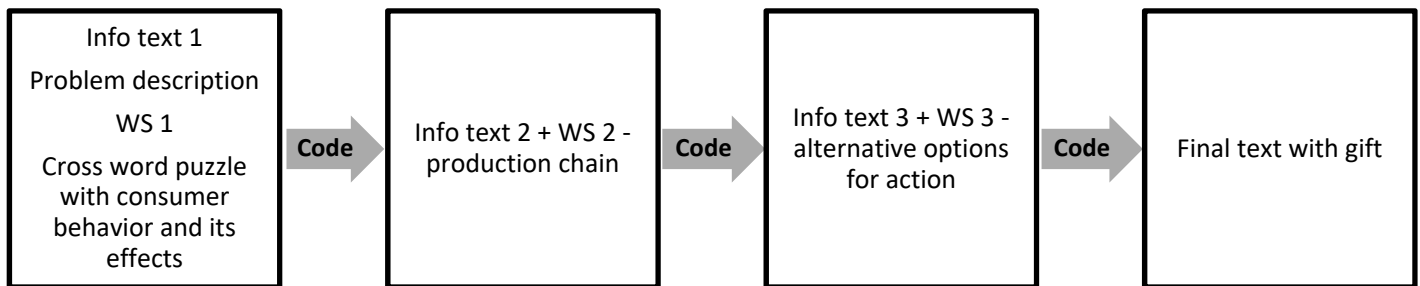
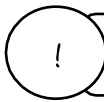
Age of the target group:	from 15 to 18
Group size/structure:	Can be played by several small groups in parallel.
Topic:	Negative externalities in the global textile industry
Keywords:	Globalization, Sustainability, Fair Trade
Duration:	30 to 45 min
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Translation:	Theresa Weber

Abstract

The story is about a “call for help” of a sewer named Li Cheng who lives in the city of Shenzhen. The first task is about our consumer behavior and about the effects it can have on humans and the environment. The second task deals with the complexity of production chains and assigns the “hidden costs” to the respective production steps. The third and last task differentiates between various options of action regarding our consumer behavior.

Learning objectives

1. Students learn about the importance of negative externalities.
2. Students are able to understand the complexity of production chains and the resulting costs and causes for our environment.
3. Students are able to reflect on the relationship between negative externalities and consumer behavior. They get sensitized to their own consumer behavior.



There are several ways in which the game process can be 'technically' implemented. The simplest variant is that the teacher distributes the worksheets to the students and that they show the solution codes to the teacher in order to receive the next information text + task.

Alternatively, the solution codes can be used as locks for boxes, which contain envelopes with the next information text + task. Representatives of the group would then have to stand in line to try out their code – and if they are successful, close the box and turn the lock again.

Another option would be to work with several similar boxes for each team.

If the groups are not able to solve the individual tasks, the teacher can help them in a fitting way. Students can also use the internet, an atlas etc. for help.

Solution codes:

Code 1: **525**

Code 2: **168**

Code 3: **341**

Setting up and running the Escape Rooms

Provided materials

For the players:

Info texts 1 to 3

Tasks 1 to 3

Final text

possibly: Atlas and Tablet or computer

For the game masters/ teachers:

Solution sheets 1 to 3

Set up

Texts and worksheets need to be printed out for the expected number of groups playing against each other. If boxes and locks are used, at least three boxes with locks are needed – if necessary, several analogously prepared boxes etc. can be used.

If the Escape Room is used several times, it may be useful to laminate the information texts and worksheets. Some of the components of worksheet 2 and 3 can be prepared individually, so that they can be placed down during the game.

Reboot

For a reboot, information texts and worksheets that have been written on, must be replaced or in the case that laminated ones have been used, the solutions must be wiped off. If necessary, the codes of the locks and the boxes must be set back and be refilled.

Introduction

This Escape Room can be used as an **Introduction to the Topic** - if applicable it might be used right at the start of the lesson sequence. Therefore, students are to be divided into groups and the process of the game is explained.

Debriefing

The Escape Room can be used as a basis for discussion in a following reflection. Technical terms such as “hidden costs” or “negative externalities” that are mentioned in the game should be part of the reflection. Examples mentioned in the Escape Room can be used for clarification of different subject matters in further discussions.

Another Jeans

Summer is slowly coming to an end and you decide to go shopping with your friend. Everywhere in the city are summer sale advertisements. You walk past your favorite clothing store and read a sign that says “Buy one jeans and get 50% off the second”. You find a pair of jeans that fits you perfectly.



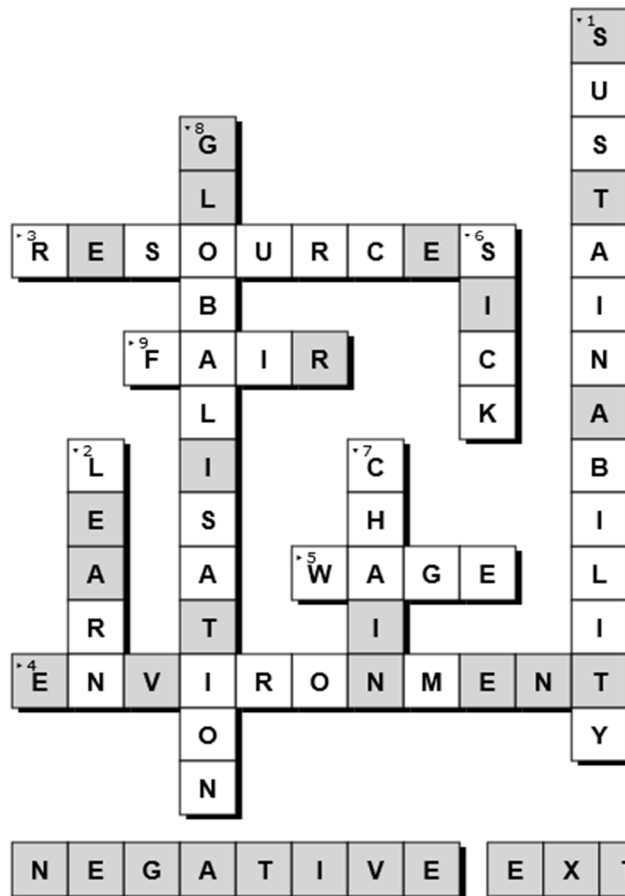
You decide to buy it and you even consider buying the same one in a different color although you already have one in this color. The offer is so tempting that you are taking it.

After you are at home you want to wash your jeans, so that you can wear it the next day. You want to make sure to wash it properly, so you have a look at the label. The jeans are very sensitive due to its special coloration and should therefore be washed by hand.

You notice that something is embroidered on the back of the label. It says: “SOS need help” and an e-mail address: li.cheng1***@gmail.com. However, you are not able to read the last three numbers. You do not worry too much. You think it is a joke and start washing your jeans by hand as it is described on the label. After you are done washing, the water is all blue and you wonder whether the color is healthy for you or not. While you hang your jeans to dry, the label that says “SOS need help” catches your attention once more. You are not able to get the embroidery out of your mind. You are curious and you want to know what the call for help and the e-mail address are all about.

If you solve the crossword puzzle, the solution will tell you how to call the effects on uninvolved “third parties” – people and the environment – that at a first glance have nothing to do with buying your jeans.

It is no longer difficult then to find the string that completes the e-mail address.



1. Has three pillars: environmental, social, economic:
2. Children should ... and not work.
3. There are more and more people in the world who consume and produce. This is a problem because the world's ... are limited.
4. Waste ends up in the ... far too often.
5. If you work all day, you should get a ... high enough to make a living!
6. Poor working conditions can make you (feel) ...
7. The supply ... is the complicated connection between clothes shops and sweat shops.
8. Process through which everything in the world is somehow related:
9. International trade should be:

5	2	5
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Created with XWords – the free online crossword puzzle generator
<https://www.xwords-generator.de/en>

- To find out the first digit of your code, you have to add the number of 'A' and 'I'.
- To find out the last two digits of your code, you have to take the square of the number of 'E's'.

Unknown E-Mail

Now that you have found out the full e-mail address, you decide to reply to the embroidered note. You decide to write the following e-mail:



Dear Li Cheng,

I found your message and I just had to write to you.

What is this all about? How are you and where are you right now?"

Greetings,

Franzi

You are aware of the fact that your new pair of jeans was not produced in Germany, as the label says "Made in Bangladesh". Is it possible that Li Cheng is in Bangladesh right now?

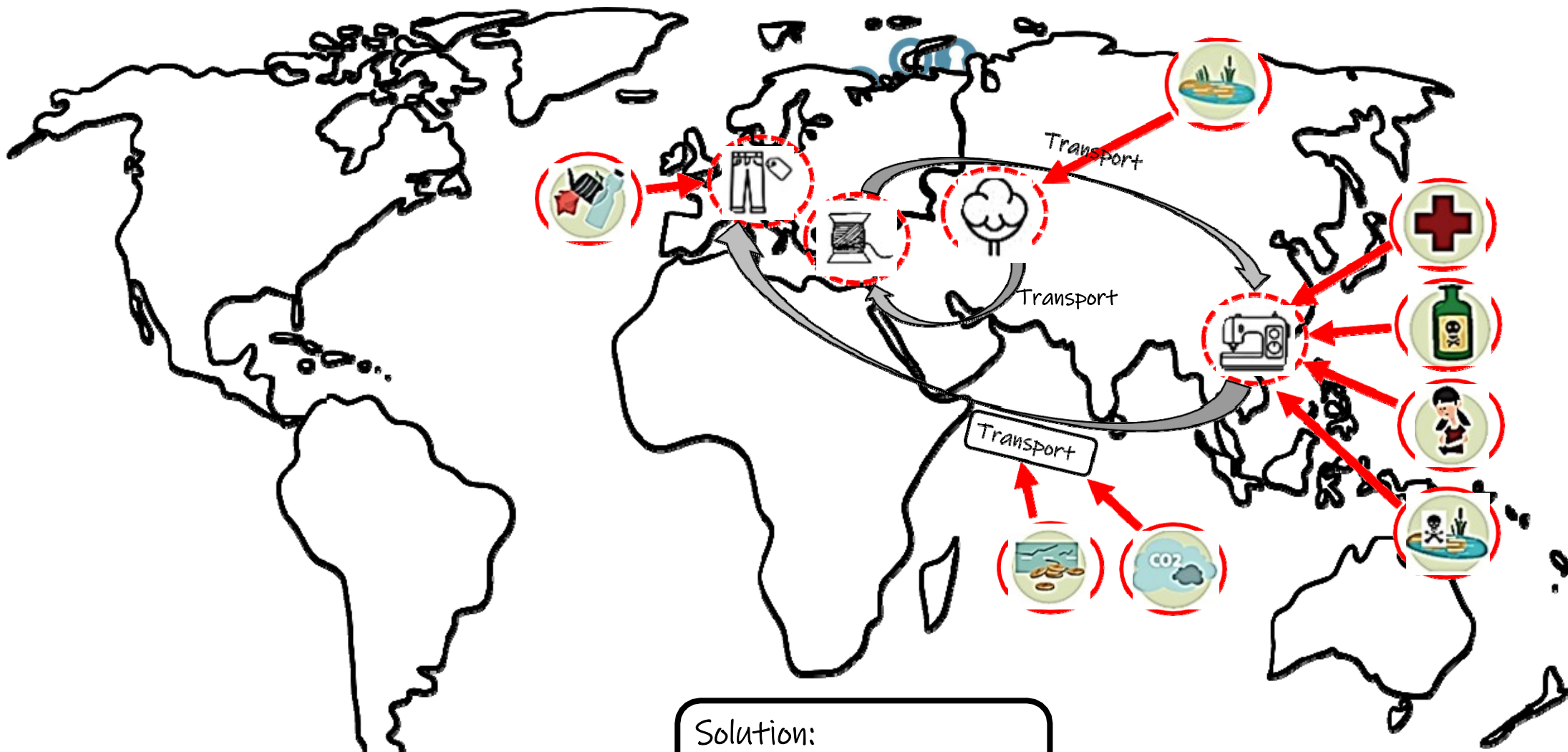
However, you have once heard that the individual steps of the production, from cotton to finished jeans, do not all take place in one country. That means Li Cheng could be anywhere all over the world.

Some time has passed, and you want to see if Li Cheng has responded to your e-mail. Unfortunately, you have forgotten the password code of your e-mail account.

If you can sort out the chaos in between the individual production steps, it should not be a problem for you to assign the "hidden costs" of production, which must be paid by people at some point or which pollute the environment and in turn lead to different costs, to each of the individual production steps.

With the code you can enter your e-mail account and read your e-mails.

Source fig.: <https://pixabay.com/de/photos/laptop-workstation-b%C3%BCro-arbeit-4906312/>

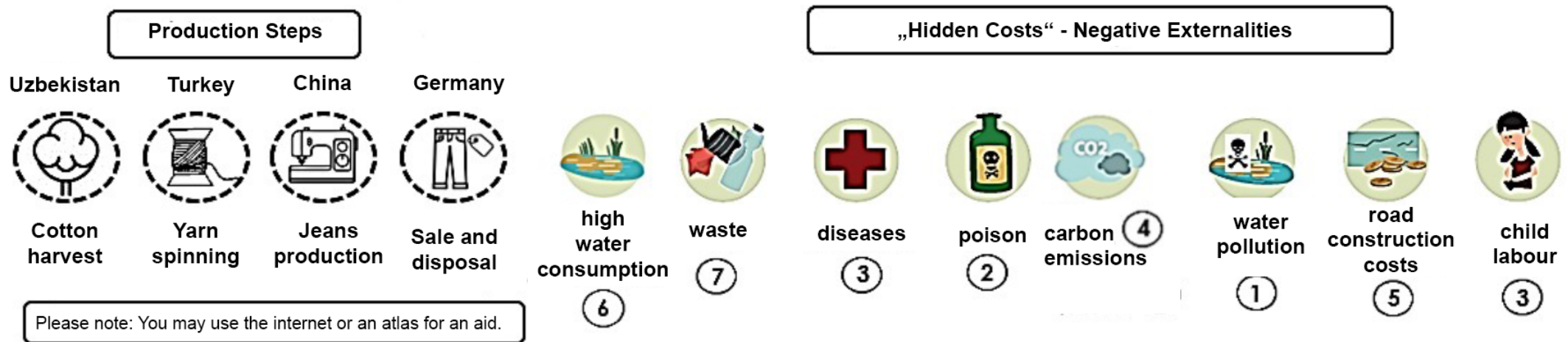


Solution:
 $(6 + 9 + 9) \times 7 = 168$

To find out the code, all you have to do now is add together the hidden costs of each step* and then solve the following calculation:
(Cotton harvest + transport + jeans production) x sale and disposal = code

1	6	8
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*Example: Child labor (3) + poison (2) + ? = 10



Source fig.:

https://www.globaleslernen.de/sites/default/files/files/education-material/teure_schnaepchen_unterrichtsmaterial_final.pdf

<https://pixabay.com/de/vectors/welt-weltkarte-erde-kontinente-160811/>

Call for help from Li Cheng

When you finally read your e-mails, you realize that Li Cheng send an answer.

Dear Franz,

two years ago, when I was 16, I left my small Chinese village and moved to the big city of Shenzhen. I was told that you can make good money there and that you can live beautifully. I have been working in a wage sewing shop for two years now. In our rooms it is very stuffy, the air is sultry-warm, the light is dim. The doors are locked. Hour after hour, I always do the same hand movements, so that after half of my shift I am completely exhausted. I literally work until I fall over.

Our company has determined how much we have to achieve on a day. Those who fail to achieve these unrealistic numbers must work unpaid overtime hours to avoid losing their jobs. We are consistently threatened with a dismissal. I do not have an employment contract. If I am ill, I do not receive any salary, or I must take unpaid leave.

The sewing company is lead like military. It is strictly forbidden to talk during working hours. My colleagues in the jeans dyeing section work with toxic chemicals, they often even work without having protective clothing. That is why many of them become seriously ill. The polluted water is also discharged unfiltered into the rivers. The fishing companies in the area are struggling with this.

The canteens are tiny, toilets are far too few. They take away our personal ID cards to stop us from running away. The monthly salary is just enough for a place to sleep in a small eight-bed room, food and drink and an occasional visit to the cinema. I had imagined my life in the big city in a completely different way.

It seems like no one can help us here. However, everyone can do something about it. I have attached something for you to this e-mail.

Li Cheng has attached a PDF to her e-mail. Can you assign the mentioned initiatives, projects and solutions to the corresponding explanations and find out how you can help Li Cheng and her colleagues out of their difficult situation?

<div> </div> <div> </div> <div> </div> <div> </div> <p>Pay attention to seals</p>	<p>1</p> <p>A full wardrobe or shoe cabinet should not be a status symbol. Each piece of clothing and every pair of shoes leaves an ecological footprint. Therefore, responsible, conscious consumers do not follow every trend, but rather spend their money on high-quality and sustainably produced clothing.</p>	<div> </div> <p>Labelled products guarantee, among other things, social minimum standards in production and ensure a fair payment of the workers. Some companies are also members of the Fair Wear Foundation which is particularly committed to the rights of textile workers.</p>
<p>C</p> <div> </div> <p>Secondhand</p>	<p>2</p> <p>A T-shirt often costs us barely five euros. However, the real price is paid by the workers and the environment in distant countries. Those who constantly buy new cheap junk clothes contribute to the fact that wasting resources, environmental pollution and exploitation remain lucrative business models.</p>	<p>B</p> <div> </div> <p>Used-Look-Renunciation</p>
<p>D</p> <div> </div> <p>Quality instead of quantity</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Jeans that look as if they were worn, pose a massive health risk for factory workers. According to experts, around 80 percent of these jeans are still irradiated with sand in low-wage countries. Due to that, many workers suffer from "pneumoconiosis", an incurable lung disease because they inhale the fine quartz dust.</p>	

You will receive the code if you combine the solution proposals, initiatives, and projects correctly with the corresponding explanations.

A	B	C-D
3	4	1

A = 3

B = 4

C = 2

D = 1

The package

Li Cheng's e-mail has touched your heart and made you feel empathetic. Due to that, you started to introduce the initiatives and projects to your friends and family. Even the local newspaper has heard about your engagement.



Li Cheng has also heard of it, as you happily notice from the package send by:

Li Cheng, Longgang District Henggang 188 Industrial Zone, 518000 Shenzhen.

It seems like it has been very important to Li Cheng that the content of the package reaches you because with the code that you have received by assigning the initiatives, projects and solutions, the box that is in the package can be opened – with a letter inside:

*Thank you very much Franzi,
one of my colleagues sent me a link with the newspaper article about you introducing various initiatives, projects and solutions in order to enable us workers to live a better life. Unfortunately, I do not have much money. However, with this small something I want to thank you very much and tell you how much your efforts mean to me and my colleagues.
THANK YOU!! – Everyone can make a difference and so do you.*

You notice joyfully that Li Cheng has put a small gift in the package to say thank you. You did not expect that, and you are now even more motivated to continue working on your projects and initiatives to help more people.

Source fig.: <https://pixabay.com/de/photos/textfreiraum-textfeld-karton-2535266/>

Final text