

Economics: A Christian Worldview. “I, Frozen Peas” & “I, Copy Paper”

(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)

Purpose

This activity is a spinoff of “I, Pencil,” in which students see the incredible complexity of producing two seemingly simple items: bags of frozen peas and packs of copy paper.

Prep (Optional)

Buy an equal number of bags of frozen peas and reams of copy paper to put on the tables for students to see during this activity.

Time

20-25 minutes

Instructions

1. Divide the class into groups of 2-6.
2. Place either a bag of frozen peas or a ream of unopened copy paper on each group’s table.

(If you can’t get these for your class or have nowhere to store the peas so they won’t defrost, it’s not the end of the world; just have teams think about what goes into creating/producing either the bag of frozen peas or ream of copy paper that they see on the PowerPoint slide. Or use something other than peas and copy paper—anything you choose!)
3. Show students the PowerPoint slide with instructions, and give them 10 minutes to complete the activity. (If they’re really getting into it, feel free to give them extra time!)
4. Go around the room and have each team’s secretary call out items needed to produce the item on the team’s table. **Suggestion:** If you have more than one group analyzing a bag of frozen peas and/or more than one group analyzing a ream of copy paper, take turns, so one team doesn’t call out all of the things needed to produce them before another group has the chance to.)
5. Play the short film “How Frozen Peas Are Made” (4:29):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq687i5ie-I>

Get students’ thoughts on this film. **Ask: What things go into making frozen peas that you left out?**
6. Play the short film “How Paper Is Made” (5:12):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXQDsSctP1M>

Get students’ thoughts on this film. **Ask: What things go into making copy paper that you left out?**
7. Ask students to compare this to the “I, Pencil” essay.