

## Advantages and disadvantages of globalization

The advantages and disadvantages of globalization are multifaceted. Accordingly, the students' answers will also differ greatly. Therefore, **it is impossible to provide a complete answer sheet** for this worksheet.

**Some sample ideas to spur thought** are listed below. During class discussion, teachers can give these ideas to those children, for example, who have colored in the yellow traffic lights – thus, those who cannot think of an advantage or disadvantage or do not have an opinion about the statement.

**Note:** The compilation of ideas is meant as background information for the teacher only. It is not suitable for handing out to the students or for letting the students copy it to their exercise books.

<b>It is possible to buy fresh strawberries throughout the year.</b>	
 <p>Now I can also eat strawberries in the winter when there is snow on the ground and strawberries don't grow.</p>	 <p>This harms the environment and uses a lot of energy. When strawberries from Egypt are sent to Germany, they have to be transported over a long distance.</p>
<b>We can travel to nearly every country in the world.</b>	
 <p>It has become easier to get to know other cultures and countries. In Europe, we can even cross borders without having passports checked. For some poor countries, tourism is the most important source of income.</p>	 <p>Air travel to distant countries pollutes the environment through the emission of carbon dioxide from the airplanes. Local tourism also causes pollution for the environment and makes the gap between rich and poor noticeable.</p>
<b>I can buy a lot of nice things with my allowance because they are produced cheaply in a faraway country, such as China.</b>	
 <p>Because of the low prices, I can afford to buy things that I would otherwise not be able to afford (e.g., MP3 player or fashionable clothing). And jobs are then created in these usually poor countries.</p>	 <p>Products are manufactured so cheaply in these usually poor countries because the wages there are so low. Often, little consideration is given to the environment and working conditions. Workers earn little, have fewer rights, and work under very poor conditions (almost no vacation, working on weekends, no health insurance).</p>

**It is possible to communicate everywhere with English as a global language.**



In many countries, children learn English early on, perhaps even as early as kindergarten. They thus receive a “key to the world,” because English is understood in some way in nearly every country in the world. English is relatively easy to learn compared to other languages such as German or Finnish.



A global English dialect is developing. People who speak only English everywhere and not the national language are losing out on an opportunity to gain a valuable insight into foreign cultures. There is the risk that people will neglect their own language and then can no longer speak any language well.

**Many foods in supermarkets come from faraway countries even though they are also grown in the country where I live.**



They are usually cheaper, and so I get more food for less money. The selection of foods is larger as a result.



I hurt local farmers or food producers if I buy imported food. Transportation over long distances causes pollution (exhaust emissions, energy consumption). These foods have often been produced under poor working conditions or contaminated with environmental toxins.

**It is possible to reach nearly every person anywhere and anytime – thanks to the Internet and global telephone network.**



As a result, friends, family, and business partners are closer than ever before. In the past, for example, long-distance calls were very expensive, and only a few people had a telephone in the first place. It has become easier to arrange meetings. People are more flexible.



Without a cell phone and the Internet, I have the feeling that I’m constantly missing something. I spend a lot of money for this. I spend almost all of my free time with my cell phone or chatting on the Internet. My life is becoming a “fishbowl,” that is, a lot of people know a lot about me, even people that I do not personally know.

**Through globalization, people of the world learn more about each other and get to know each other.**



The relations between countries are becoming more intensive; there is more exchange and discussion. For example, my parents also have a sponsored child in Brazil that they support.



Mostly we learn only negative things about other countries, for example, when there are wars, accidents, or catastrophes. This provides a very one-sided view of the world. Or we receive only “ideal world” pictures, for example, to boost tourism.

**For fast students:**

<b>The same fast food chains and fashion brands exist all over the world.</b>	
 <p>Super! At least I know that I am dressed correctly. And I do not have to eat strange local foods, but can buy a hamburger and know how it will taste.</p>	 <p>Local cultures and tastes are adapting to a uniform globalized style. Variety is disappearing, and local, traditional things are considered to be outdated and old-fashioned.</p>

<b>Large international companies can use the raw material reserves in developing countries.</b>	
 <p>These raw materials are very important for products such as cell phones and other electronic devices, and they are not found anywhere else in the world.</p>	 <p>The companies do not always treat the environment and local inhabitants with respect and consideration when they extract the raw materials. Often, very little of the profit that is earned with the raw materials remains in the countries from which the raw materials come.</p>

<b>Large fishing vessels from Europe and other industrialized countries fish off the African coast.</b>	
 <p>It doesn't really matter where the fish is caught; it is processed on board and delivered deep-frozen to the factory. The factory looks for the cheapest fishermen and the supermarket looks for the cheapest factory.</p>	 <p>The local fishermen don't stand a chance against these highly technical fleets. Their fishing grounds are being overfished. And with their simple boats, they cannot travel hundreds of kilometers out onto the sea.</p>