

B B C BITESIZE

Globalisation is the process of making a more connected world. For example, by trading goods and services or exchanging ideas, food and culture internationally. Today, countries are increasingly interdependent, which means that they are more reliant on each other. A useful way to help understand globalisation is to think about some items in your everyday life. A classroom chair, for example. All four sectors of the economy are involved, and processes to produce the chair take place all across the globe.

The primary sector sources raw materials for our chair, such as oil and metal ore. The secondary sector, manufacturing, produces the raw materials and assembles the chair. The tertiary sector provides services. This might include selling and transporting our chair to a shop or directly to your school. And finally, the quaternary sector deals with research, development and innovation. This sector would be involved right at the start of designing our chair.

Technological advances, particularly over the last 50 years, have accelerated globalisation. The internet and better transportation allow quicker access to more goods, services and ideas.

Improved communication means more connection between businesses, friends and families. But while globalisation has allowed some areas of our lives and economies to thrive, there are negative impacts too. For example, businesses can easily move production from countries where it is expensive to operate to cheaper places. This might mean working conditions and environmental standards become lower.

Globalisation affects so much of our daily lives and beyond, in our schools, homes and online. Think about that the next time you're sitting on your classroom chair.