

An American Journey ... Or Is It?

Maxine and Melvin decide to take a day off from work so they can have a long weekend and drive upstate to visit friends. Melvin works for ING Direct and Maxine works for Barclays.



They fill up their Lexus sedan with gas at the local Shell station and begin their journey. They sip on some Caribou Coffee and nibble on some Nestle Crunch Bars until they arrive at the Holiday Inn where they will spend the night. Melvin takes a Bayer aspirin for a headache and then watches a movie on the Sony television. Maxine reads a book published by Houghton Mifflin pops a Halls Cough Drop in her mouth for her sore throat. They get a call from friends on their T-Mobile cell phone.

The next day, Maxine has a cup of Taster's Choice instant coffee and a Dannon yogurt. Melvin drinks a cup of Lipton Tea. They make a snack of crackers with Skippy Peanut Butter, fill the car with gas at the BP station, and continue on their way. They both chew some Dentyne Ice as they drive.

How American was this journey?

1. In the chart below, place a check mark next to each company/product that you think is owned or produced by an American company. Do not check companies you believe are foreign.

<input type="checkbox"/> ING Direct	<input type="checkbox"/> Houghton Mifflin Book
<input type="checkbox"/> Barclays	<input type="checkbox"/> Halls Cough Drop
<input type="checkbox"/> Lexus	<input type="checkbox"/> T-Mobile Cell Phone
<input type="checkbox"/> Shell Gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Taster's Choice Instant Coffee
<input type="checkbox"/> Caribou Coffee	<input type="checkbox"/> Dannon Yogurt
<input type="checkbox"/> Nestle Crunch Bar	<input type="checkbox"/> Lipton Tea
<input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Inn	<input type="checkbox"/> Skippy Peanut Butter
<input type="checkbox"/> Bayer Aspirin	<input type="checkbox"/> BP Gas
<input type="checkbox"/> Sony TV	<input type="checkbox"/> Dentyne Ice Gum

Let's discuss the list ... and see how you did ... before you answer the questions below.

2. What surprised you about this story?
3. How does this journey illustrate globalization*?

* Globalization refers to the increases in the degree of integration between national economies, including the integration of production and consumption of goods and services, and the effects of public policies established in different nations and by international organizations.