



The
Economist

EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

CHAOS ON THE CANAL

PART 1: IN THE KNOW

LEARNING INDEPENDENTLY?

Check out this week's
introduction video

bit.ly/NewsCycleVidApr1

KEEN TO HAVE YOUR SAY?

Share your opinion on
this week's News Cycle

bit.ly/NewsCycleApr1

TRADE = when things are bought and sold

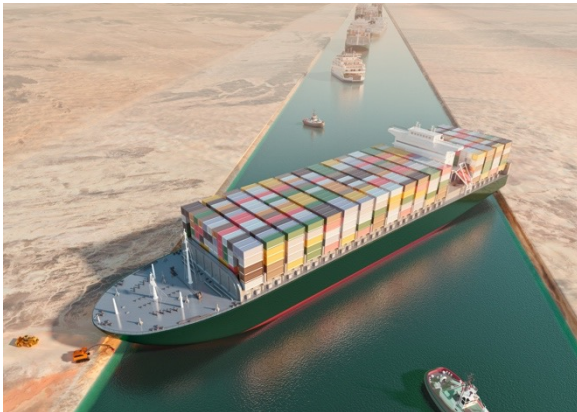
DREDGER = a boat that removes sand and mud from the seabed

TUG BOAT = a small, powerful boat used to move other boats

NEWS CYCLE

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

Chaos on the canal: why did one ship hit the headlines?



Every year about 19,000 ships pass through the Suez Canal, one of the world's busiest trade routes. But on March 23rd, one of them caused an enormous traffic jam. Amid high winds the *Ever Given*, a big container ship, became wedged across the narrow waterway. For days the world watched to see whether diggers, dredgers and tug boats could free it.

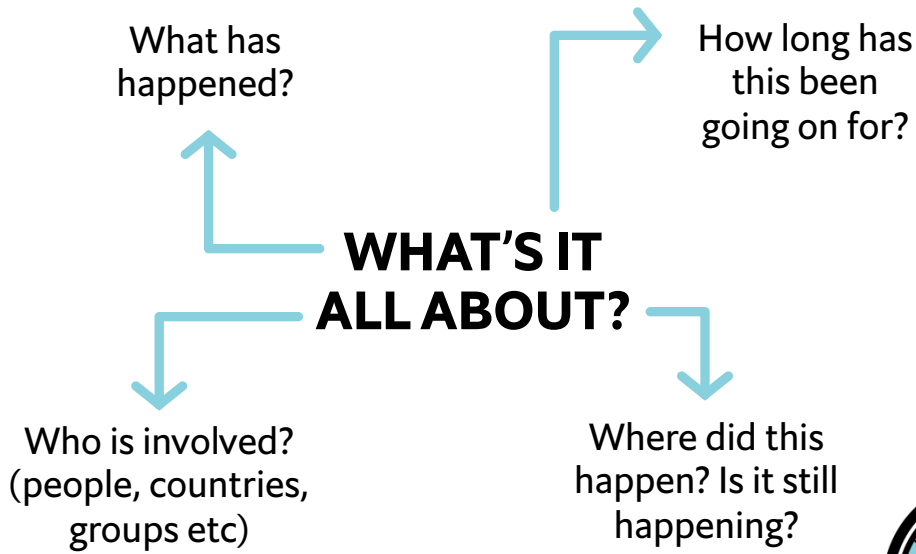
The Suez Canal, which runs through Egypt, is the shortest route by sea between Asia and Europe. Every day ships carrying about 12% of all products traded around the world pass through its waters. But when the 400m-long *Ever Given* ran aground, it blocked the canal completely, causing long delays and disrupting businesses around the world.

An estimated \$9.6 billion of goods were held up on each day the canal was blocked, including Amazon products. By March 28th, 369 ships were stuck in a queue to pass through the canal.

On March 29th, dredgers and tug boats dislodged the *Ever Given* and towed it to a wider part of the canal. Several boats honked their horns in celebration as their paths were cleared. But for others, the good news came too late. They had already taken a much longer route around the southern tip of Africa.

Osama Rabie, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, said "we will not waste one second" in getting traffic flowing again. However, Egyptian officials said it would take about three days to clear the queue of ships. Experts believe that it could take months for global shipping to return to normal.

Want to know more? Look here: [bbc.co.uk/newsround/56561684](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/56561684)



NEWS SCALE

How much of a problem was the blockage in the Suez Canal for you? Mark your opinion on the scale below with an X. What about someone waiting for an important delivery? Where would they put their X? What about a shop owner waiting for the goods they sell?

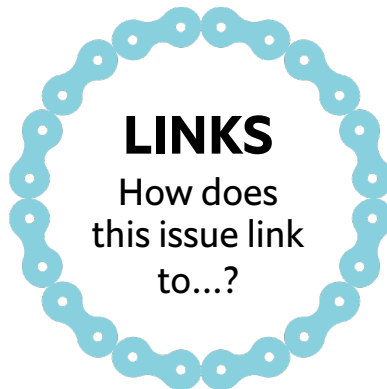


NEWS CONCEPT:
scarcity?

Your life?

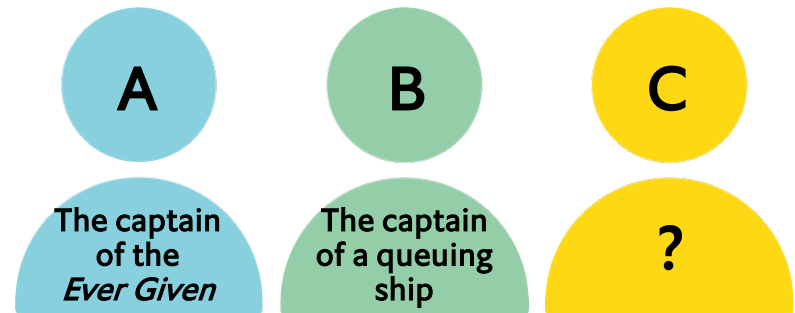
A school subject?

A different news story?



PERSPECTIVE FLIP

What would Person A think about this issue? How are they affected by the issue? Now flip to Person B and think about the same questions. Are any perspectives missing?



CHALLENGE: how is this issue developing in the news?