

Item 4.A: Opium Trade Statistics

The West's Trade Deficit with China

<i>Decade</i>	<i>Taels¹ of silver</i>
1760s	3.0 million
1770s	7.5 million
1780s	16 million

¹A tael is equal to approximately one ounce of silver.

British Opium to China

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of chests²</i>
1729	200
1773	1,000
1790	4,054
1800	4,570
1823	7,082
1828	13,131
1832	23,570

²Each chest contained 130 to 160 pounds of opium packed into balls.

China's Trade Deficit with the West

<i>Decade</i>	<i>Taels of Silver</i>
1820s	20 million
1830s	90 million

Source: *Teaching a Region in Transition: The Pearl River Delta* (A Unit of Study for Grades 9–12) by Caryn White Stedman and John Hallowell Stedman. PIER (Programs in International Educational Resources, Yale Center for International and Area Studies, New Haven, CT), 1998.