Chapter 21

Activity File 21-1 Learning about the US Commerce Department

**Directions:** Complete the following activity to learn more about the US Commerce Department

In colonial America, people got the goods they needed trading, also called *bartering*. They exchanged extra items they owned for something someone else could spare. This was early commerce, the exchange of goods and services. Commerce is part of our economic history, and it continues today in far more complex forms. Through advancements in technology, commerce is large-scale and involves buying, selling, and transporting goods great distances, even around the world.

In the United States, commerce is overseen by the US Department of Commerce. To learn more about the department and what it does, go to the following website and answer the questions that follow.

www.commerce.gov

1. Select “Mission and Strategic Plan” at the top of the page. What is the mission of the US Department of Commerce? What are the five goal areas of the Department of Commerce mission?

<<Place Answer Here>>

2. On the home page of the website, select “Learn About Commerce” from the top of the page. When the new page is loaded, select “Frequently Asked Questions” from the left side of the page. Using the information on this page, how many bureaus exist within the Department of Commerce?

<<Place Answer Here>>

3. From the Frequently Asked Questions page, navigate to the United States Patent and Trademark Office webpage. In what areas does the USPTO advise the president?

<<Place Answer Here>>

4. From the Frequently Asked Questions page, navigate to the Minority Business Development Administration webpage. How does the MBDA help grow minority businesses?

<<Place Answer Here>>

5. Again, from the FAQ page, scroll down to the “job opportunities” link under the “Careers in Commerce” heading. Then, click on “Commerce Only” jobs. Locate a Department of Commerce career that interests you and read the description. Summarize what you learn about the career.

<<Place Answer Here>>

6. Ask your instructor where to save your documents. This could be on the school’s network or a flash drive of your own. Name your Word document *FirstnameLastname*\_Activity21-1.docx (e.g., JohnSmith\_Activity21-1.docx).