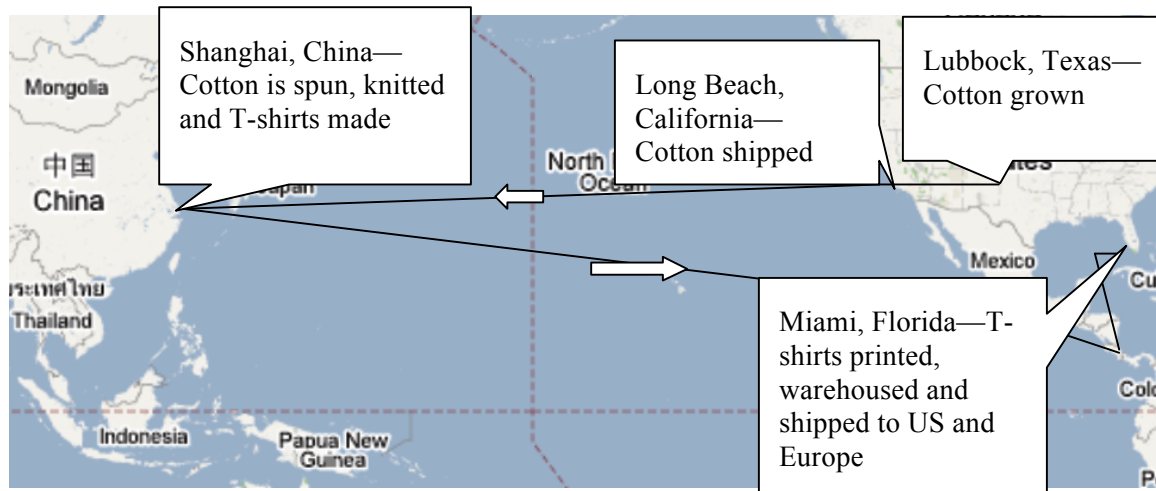


# The T-Shirt

The simple souvenir t-shirt that many of us buy while on vacation may well have traveled all around the world. Pietra Rivoli traced the history of a t-shirt she bought in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It was a typical beach scene t-shirt, but she was surprised to find that it was born in Lubbock, Texas, took form in Shanghai, China, and was finished in Miami, Florida (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** T-shirt Journey

The cotton that will become the t-shirt is grown near Lubbock, Texas. There it is ginned, cleaned and baled. The baled cotton is shipped by truck to Long Beach, California. At Long Beach it is put on a ship and shipped to Shanghai.

In Shanghai, it is cleaned again, spun into thread, knitted into fabric, and sewn into t-shirts. The t-shirts are made for a company in Miami, which has contracted for them. Shanghai is only one location from which the company contracts for t-shirts.

The finished t-shirts are loaded onto ships that cross the Pacific Ocean, transit the Panama Canal, and are unloaded in Miami.

In Miami, the shirts are finished with artwork depicting beach scenes, mountains, or rivers, and then warehoused and shipped to tourist spots across the United States and Europe.

Source: *Pietra Rivoli*