

Fair's fair

Theme: fair trade

Country focus: Ghana

Aim: to reflect on the global stories contained in our bags of shopping in the UK and Ireland; to start to explore the global trading system and the role we all play as consumers within this; to understand fair trade as a positive step we can make towards responsible shopping habits.

Materials/preparation:

- two shopping bags (bags for life, of course!) - one filled with local produce (potatoes, apples, carrots etc), one filled with imported produce (bananas, coffee, chocolate etc)
- the *Fair's Fair* PowerPoint presentation (downloadable from www.christianaid.org.uk/learn).

Assembly presentation

1. Present your two shopping bags to the pupils.

Ask: *what is the difference between the contents of the two bags?* Invite answers and then explain: *one bag contains things grown by farmers here in the UK/Ireland, the other bag contains things grown by farmers overseas.*

Ask the children what is their favourite item from the bags (expect most to say chocolate, but you could congratulate any health-conscious fruit fans or sophisticated tea drinkers!).

2. Explain that the chocolate we eat comes from cocoa beans. *Most cocoa beans are grown in Africa, particularly in the Ivory Coast and Ghana. Cocoa pods grow on trees. They start off green and turn yellow when they get ripe, a bit like bananas.*

When they are ripe, the farmers pick them, open them up and take out the white seeds inside (these are the cocoa beans). They still don't look much like chocolate and they wouldn't taste very nice either. They need to ferment. So the farmer wraps them in big plantain leaves for about seven days until they turn brown and start to develop their chocolatey smell. Mmmn, imagine that! They are then laid out on bamboo mats for another week to dry in the sun.

3. Ask pupils how much money they spend on chocolate each week. *Do you know that in the UK we spend an average of £72 per person on chocolate every year! So, if we're spending all that money on chocolate, do you think the cocoa farmers are rich or poor?*

Invite answers and then explain: *despite their hard work, most of the farmers are poor because they are not paid a fair price for their cocoa. Most of the money we spend on chocolate doesn't go to the farmer, but to the shop that sells it to us, the factory that makes the bar, and the people that buy the cocoa from the farmers. On average, families in this country spend more on buying chocolate than a cocoa farmer earns in a whole year.*

4. Show slide 2 on the PowerPoint presentation. *Some cocoa farmers in Ghana decided to try to do something about this, so they got together and formed a group called a cooperative (which means they work together). They called it Kuapa Kokoo (which means the Good Cocoa Farmers' Group). They work together to grow and sell their cocoa for a fair price. Any extra money they earn goes on projects that help everyone in the community, such as schools or making sure the water supply is fresh and clean. Christian Aid is a charity that helped the farmers to set up a company called Divine Chocolate Ltd, which makes Divine and Dubble chocolate bars from fair-trade cocoa beans.*

3. Show slide 3 on the PowerPoint presentation. *This is Raphael Ayapong. He is 14 and lives in Akumadan in Ghana. His father works for Kuapa Kokoo. Raphael says 'buying fair-trade chocolate makes a big difference to the lives of cocoa farmers, like my dad'. With the profits from selling cocoa, the cooperative have installed a new bore-hole to provide the community with fresh water. As Raphael says, 'you get delicious chocolate and we get a fair deal'.¹¹ What could be fairer than that?*

4. Show slide 4 on the PowerPoint presentation.

This symbol means the farmer who grew the crop is getting paid a fair price. The Divine and Dubble chocolate bars have the FAIRTRADE mark on their wrappers.

Christian Aid supports fair trade because it is a way for farmers in poorer countries to trade their way out of poverty and to get a fair price for the food they sell. Christian Aid also asks governments around the

world to change the rules that stop some farmers getting a fair price for the things they grow.

5. Show slide 5 on the PowerPoint presentation.

You can help too by looking out for the Fairtrade symbol and asking whoever does the shopping to buy things marked with the symbol. You can get fairly traded bananas, mangoes, coffee, tea, orange juice, pineapples, nuts, raisins, sugar, biscuits, clothes, and, of course, chocolate

Prayer

Dear God

Thank you for delicious things to eat. Help us to remember the farmers who grow our food, especially those who are poor. Thank you for Fairtrade and help us to choose wisely so that others may have a better life.

Amen.

Reflection

As we enjoy lovely things, such as chocolate and fruit, we will remember that everything we consume has been made or grown by someone somewhere else. We will try to investigate where that 'somewhere else' might be, and give thanks to the 'someone else' who grew it. Together we will respect the responsibilities that we have to the people all over the world who are connected to us through the things we buy, and endeavour to buy fairly traded goods where and when we can so that everyone gets a fairer deal.

Action

- raise £72 for Christian Aid (the same amount spent on chocolate per person per year in UK! For fun fundraising ideas and great fair-trade baking recipes, order our free [SuperCake! fundraising pack](#)
- find out more about Raphael Ayapong – read his story and see his photos on www.globalgang.org
- ask pupils to search for more stories about children whose lives have been improved by fair trade on the Global Gang website www.globalgang.org (search 'fair trade' and 'chocolate')
- Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 23 February to 8 March 2009. Check out www.fairtrade.org.uk for ideas on how your school can raise awareness of Fairtrade products – at school, at home and in your local community
- bring fair trade alive in your classroom with Papapaa Live! Pa Pa Paa Live! delivers webcasts from two rural schools in cocoa growing communities in Ghana to classrooms across the UK. Find out more at www.papapaa.org/live
- sign up as a Dubble Agent and join thousands of young fair trade supporters on a mission to get fair play for cocoa farmers in Ghana. Sign up at www.dubble.co.uk to order your free MISSION:POSSIBLE pack while stocks last!

ⁱ<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2006/apr/13/foodanddrink>

ⁱⁱFrom [MISSION:POSSIBLE, Dubble Chocolate](#)