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Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Farming

This purpose of this task is to illustrate the unfairness and effects of inequality in the pay received by farmers for the crops they grow. You can experience this for yourself with either or both of the following tasks.

Task 1

1. Build a farm out of construction bricks or any building materials you have available (Could be wooden blocks, plasticine or you could draw your farm) You can choose to farm any of the crops used to make Fairtrade products or you can have a mix of some or all of them. At least two farms are needed for this task, so If you are working with others they can each make a farm; if you are on your own, you can make 2!



2. Find or make a farmer for each farm and a family. Build them a house on the farm.

3. While you are working on your farm, ask the adult helping you to make or draw a smart looking car for the buyer to use in the farm role play and a truck for transporting the produce.



4. Spend some time working the farmers hard in the fields, planting, watering and harvesting. Farming is a physical, hot, tiring and demanding occupation.

5. Next imagine that you are at the end of the growing season - now you are ready to act out the buying scene. The buyer (supermarkets and food producing companies have buyers whose job it is to get the best product at the best price) arrives at the farm in the car built in (3) and negotiates with each farmer to buy their produce.

6. The first farmer visited is a Fairtrade farmer so receives the Fairtrade minimum price of 25 brick tokens per truckload. (perhaps the youngest farmer could be the Fairtrade farmer?)

Fairtrade Farming

7. The next farmers visited have no such protection and receive just 10 brick tokens per truck load.



8. Load the trucks and pay the farmers.

9. Farmers can use brick tokens to buy bricks for food to feed their families and improve their houses – notice the effect of the payment difference on the farmers. Farmer 1 may be able to improve his/her house and buy things for the children. Non-Fairtrade farmers may use all their brick tokens on food or repairs.

10. Repeat for another year to emphasise difference. Farmer 1 will continue to receive the Fairtrade minimum price, but non-Fairtrade farmers will only receive 5 brick tokens per truck load this year because it has been a bumper harvest. Allow farmers to spend their brick tokens.

11. Fairtrade Premium – the truck arrives at Farm 1 with a delivery of building materials so the farmer can build a road or a bridge. Fairtrade premiums are paid to farmers and communities to enable them to improve their infrastructure. Build the new addition to Farm 1.

12. Compare the two farms now – which is the happiest? Which family is the healthiest? Which house is the most comfortable?



How would you feel if you were a non-Fairtrade farmer?

13. If you are creating a Fairtrade wall, take pictures of your farms, print them and add them to it.

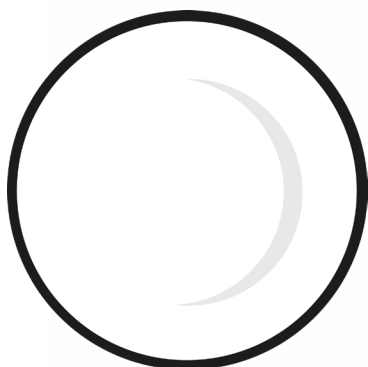
Photo courtesy of didbygraham (@flickr.com) granted under creative commons licence attribution

Fairtrade Farming

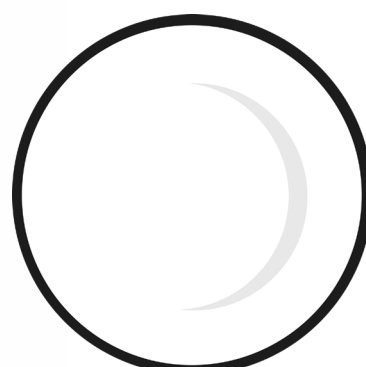
Task 2

1. Choose and agree on a job that each member of the 'farm' will perform for payment. This needs to be something that can be done simultaneously or jointly by each person involved. Examples could include washing up, cleaning the car, tidying bedrooms, making cakes.
2. Make a clear link between farmers producing crops and the jobs we are performing for money. In each case we are motivated by the prospect of earning reward.
3. When the 'farmers' have completed the job, in the role of 'buyer' assess how each has performed. Decide that everyone has been equally effective.
4. Award money unequally giving one participant what might be considered a 'fair' price for the service they have performed e.g. £5 for a car wash, £1 for a cake. Announce that all other participants will receive a much lower rate because they are not Fairtrade 'farmers'.
5. Ask all participants to calculate how they will spend the money they have earned on providing a meal for the next day. They can use online supermarket grocery sites to decide what to spend their earnings on.

Fairtrade Farmer's Meal



Non-Fairtrade Farmer's Meal



Which meal would you rather eat?

6. Now imagine that if you were the Fairtrade Farmer, via Fairtrade Premium you are given better tools appropriate to the job you performed. E.g. a jet wash for car washing or a better oven for cake baking.
7. Finish the task by discussing what it has helped you to see. Which person got the fairest deal?

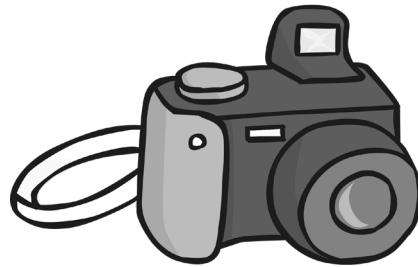
Does everyone have the right to be paid a fair price?

How can you help everyone to be paid a fair price?

Glossary

Term	Definition
buyer	Someone employed by supermarkets or food companies to get the best produce at the best prices.
infrastructure	Structures and organisation supporting a society e.g. roads, bridges, water supply.
Fairtrade minimum price	Price set to cover the cost of sustainable production of a certain crop.
Fairtrade premium	Additional money paid to workers and farmers to enable them to improve their working and living conditions.
occupation	What someone does to earn a living.

Challenge



Can you make the Fairtrade logo, which can be seen on all Fairtrade produce, out of construction bricks or plasticine? Take a photo of it for your Fairtrade Fortnight wall.