



African Connections

Objectives

- To explore the connections that the UK has with African countries
- To encourage discussion about issues raised by the Commission for Africa report

You will need:

- A laminated map of the world with country names
- Different coloured sticky dots
- Labels from tins / packets of food – both preserved and fresh (these could be collected by pupils and brought to the lesson)

Time: 30 – 45 minutes

Instructions:

Stage 1

- Ask the pupils to look at the labels on their clothes, or anything else they may have brought with them, for information about the countries of manufacture.
- Give each pupil some sticky dots (of one colour) and ask them to stick one dot on each of the countries of manufacture on the world map.

Stage 2

- Ask the pupils to get out the labels they have brought with them and look for information about the countries of production.
- Give each pupil some sticky dots (of another colour) and ask them to stick one dot on each of the countries of production on the world map.

Stage 3

- Tell the group that the map shows the connections that the UK has with the rest of the world. Ask the whole group about what the map shows:
 - Is there a pattern to how the dots are distributed?
 - Which areas of the world do manufactured goods come from?
 - Which areas of the world do food products come from?
 - Is there any pattern to the type of goods manufactured / food products produced in different parts of the world?
 - Why are there so few connections with countries in Africa?
- Use the background information to explore the trade issue raised by the Commission for Africa report. Focus in particular on:
 - Unfair trading practices – barriers and subsidies
 - Dependency on primary production
 - Decreases in world market prices for primary goods
 - The need for a better transport infrastructure



Background Information:

- Africa has seen its share of world trade fall from six per cent in 1980 to less than two per cent in 2002. (Commission for Africa)
- Every cow in Europe receives almost US\$2 a day in subsidies, double the average income in Africa. (Commission for Africa)
- From 1980 to 2000, the price of major African exports decreased dramatically; sugar by 77%, cocoa by 71%, coffee by 64% and cotton by 47%. (Commission for Africa)
- Tariffs on peanuts coming into the US from Africa are 132%. (Commission for Africa)
- Half the population of Africa live on less than one dollar a day. (Commission for Africa)
- Rich nations spend as much on subsidising the production of unwanted food as the entire income of all the people in Africa – almost US\$1 billion a day. (Commission for Africa)
- Africa's transport costs are around twice as high as those for a typical Asian country; shipping a car from Japan to Abidjan costs US\$1,500, whereas moving it from Abidjan to Addis Ababa costs US\$5,000. (Commission for Africa)
- If Africa's share of global trade had stayed at 1980 levels, the continent's share of world exports would be double today's figure – and Africans' per capita incomes would be 50 percent higher than they are today. (UNCTAD)
- Economists estimate that—through trade—Africa has the potential to earn at least six times what it currently receives in aid.
- Africa cannot trade its way out of poverty without a level playing field. Right now, trade rules are so skewed that cows in Europe receive more every day in subsidies than half the population of Africa has to live on (\$2). (Jubilee)