

We Can't Eat Roses

Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of some of the key principles of Fairtrade and how it works.
- To use the example of flower growing to illustrate the problems faced by producer countries of the South.
- To enable children to become more aware of their responsibilities as 'consumers'.

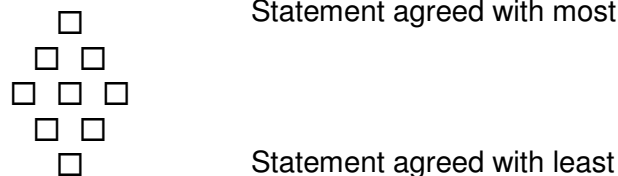
You will need:

- Copies of the statements 'Reasons for Buying Fair Trade Flowers' (one copy for each group)
- The case study: 'Flower Growing in Kenya'

Time: 30-45 minutes

Instructions:

- Read the 'Flower Growing in Kenya' case study to pupils, allowing time for questions and clarification on different aspects.
- Divide the class into small groups and give each group a set of the 'Reasons for Buying Fairtrade Flowers' statements.
- Ask the pupils to discuss which of these statements they agree with most:
 - EITHER – In pairs, pupils can choose four statements which they think are most important, giving their reasons. The pairs can then become groups of four and they can try and reach a consensus on the most important statements.
 - OR – Ask small groups to rank all the statements in a diamond nine shape, with the one they agree with most at the top and the one they feel least strongly about at the bottom. Other statements should be distributed to form a diamond hierarchy like this:



Discussion:

- Ask each group to feedback to the rest of the class.
- Make a record of the statements most groups think are important.
- Discuss any differences in the responses from the groups.

Further resources for exploring Fairtrade:

Oxfam listings: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/teachers/fairtrade_resources/index.htm

Provides a list of online and published resources on Fairtrade.

Go Bananas: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/teachers/banana/index.htm>

Pages of the Oxfam Cool Planet site exploring the journey of bananas from tree to table with a photo gallery and lesson plans for KS2 (upper primary). The print publication can also be ordered online.

Dubble www.dubble.co.uk

Provides a series of case studies and activities for KS2 and KS3 (upper primary and lower secondary) which explore the cocoa and chocolate trade and how Fairtrade can make a difference.



Reasons for Buying Fairtrade Flowers

The farmer earns more money.

The farmer has better, safer conditions to work in and wears protective clothing.

The farmer can afford health care for his/her family.

The farmer can afford to send his/her children to school.

The environment is better protected because fewer chemicals are used and less water is wasted because watering is controlled by computer.

It sets a good example to other big companies

It means customers can make a difference through how and what they buy.

Farmers work fewer hours – six days a week (46hours), so have more time to spend with their family.

They have better benefits – one month paid sick leave, twenty one days paid holidays and two months paid maternity leave.