

## World Trade

### Background:

The world trading system is currently very unfair and biased against developing countries. Trade rules mean that richer countries can protect themselves in certain ways; for example, by giving their farmers subsidies, imposing tariffs and quotas. Trade could bring prosperity to developing countries, if the rules were applied evenly.

### Objectives:

- To show how we are linked by trade to the rest of the world
- To highlight the difference between free trade and fair trade

### You will need

- A shopping bag with a selection of fresh produce and tinned / packaged products from around the world, with its country of origin highlighted
- A large Peters' projection map
- Pins and string

**Time:** 45-60 minutes

### Instructions:

- Individual pupils put their hand into the bag without looking, select one item and guess what it might be.
- Show the item to the class and, still keeping the country of origin hidden, ask the class to suggest countries where the item might come from.
- Reveal the country of production / manufacture and record the results on a world map, with the string and pins. (The children can do this if appropriate)
- Items may be added to the map from information that the children have about electrical appliances, cars, clothing etc. from home.

### Discussion:

- Feedback on the information gathered:
  - Are some countries more involved in one kind of produce / product?
  - Do a large number of countries grow / produce the same item?

### Extension ideas:

- The benefits of fair trade can be explored using some of the information/activities listed below.
- The children could carry out a supermarket survey comparing prices of fair trade goods like tea, coffee and chocolate against free trade prices. Do the benefits of Fairtrade account for the difference in prices?

### Further information to support this activity:

**Cool Planet website:** [http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/beyondwave/dayfour\\_am.htm](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/beyondwave/dayfour_am.htm)

More info on the theme of trade and further classroom activities

Global Gang: <http://www.globalgang.org.uk/homeworkhelp/kenya/>

For information on Kenya and farming

**CAFOD website: Teachers information on Fairtrade bananas:**

[http://www.cafod.org.uk/resources/schoolteachers/background\\_and\\_teachers\\_notes/fairtrade\\_bananas](http://www.cafod.org.uk/resources/schoolteachers/background_and_teachers_notes/fairtrade_bananas)

**Teachers information on the story of coffee:**

[http://www.cafod.org.uk/resources/schoolteachers/background\\_and\\_teachers\\_notes/the\\_story\\_of\\_coffee\\_in\\_pictures\\_ks1\\_ks2](http://www.cafod.org.uk/resources/schoolteachers/background_and_teachers_notes/the_story_of_coffee_in_pictures_ks1_ks2)

