

Anytime: Fair trade



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The FAIRTRADE Mark

Article 2

The Convention applies to every child, regardless of race, colour, sex, language, place of birth, religion, politics, disability, and status.

Article 24

All children and young people have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help them stay alive, healthy and safe.

Key words

Choice	Harmony	Justice
Fairness	Rights	Respect

Resources

- A bunch of five bananas
- A few other groceries displayed on a table to represent a shop
- Shopping bag for the customer
- Old threadbare clothing for one child

Five banners with captions as follows:

- Banner 1 (shopkeeper): (front) 40p; (reverse) To sell Fairtrade bananas, I still get 40p
- Banner 2 (farmer): (front) 12p; (reverse) To farm Fairtrade bananas, I get 15p
- Banner 3 (exporter): (front) 35p; (reverse) To export Fairtrade bananas, I only get 22p
- Banner 4 (importer): (front) 10p; (reverse) To import Fairtrade bananas, I still get 10p
- Banner 5 (child): (front) 3p; (reverse) To grow Fairtrade bananas, I get 15p

Illustrations/images

You will need, if possible, to display or project a large copy of the picture (FAIRTRADE mark).

Pupil participation

Six children to play the shopkeeper, customer, child, importer, exporter and farmer.

Opening

[The shopkeeper is standing behind the table of goods]

Today, we are going to see a short play and we will talk about it afterwards.

[Customer enters the scene with a shopping bag]

Customer

I would like a bunch of bananas please.

Shopkeeper

[handing the customer the bunch of bananas]

That will be £1 please.

Customer

Thank you. *[Hands over money and walks out of shop]*

[Shopkeeper holds up banner 1 that reads 40p]

[Outside the shop, the customer is met by a child.]

Child

Excuse me! Sorry to disturb you. My family grew the bananas that you are carrying.

Would you mind telling me what you paid for them?

Customer

£1. That's 20p a banana. Bananas are the most popular fruit in the UK, so your family must be rich.

Child:

Oh, if only! The truth is my family only gets 3p for that bunch of bananas.

Customer:

3p! Where does the other 97p go?

Child

Well look!

[Points to the banner behind the shopkeeper]

For a start, the shopkeeper gets 40p. Then some goes to the farmer who owns the land my family grow bananas on ...

[Points to the farmer who holds up banner reading 12p]

... and some goes to the people who package the bananas and send them to countries like the UK ...

[Points to exporter who holds up banner reading 35p]

... and the rest goes to the people who pick them up when they arrive, separate them into bunches, and deliver them to the shops so you can buy them.

[Points to importer, who holds up banner reading 10p]

Every day, me and my family tend to the banana trees. We plant them, weed them, water them, pick the fruit, and pack them into boxes for collection. And for that, we get 3p.

[Holds up banner reading 3p]

My parents cannot afford to send us to school, or to buy us the shoes and books we need. My little brother is ill and the medicine he needs is really expensive.

Customer

Well. This really doesn't seem very fair. What can we do about it?

Child

If everyone bought fairly traded bananas then we'd get more money for our work. We would get a fair wage. Look!

[Each person turns round their banner, and reads out what is written on the reverse]:

Shopkeeper

To sell Fairtrade bananas, I still get 40p.

Importer:

To import Fairtrade bananas, I still get 10p.

Exporter:

To export Fairtrade bananas, I only get 22p.

Farmer:
To farm Fairtrade bananas, I get 15p.

Child:

To grow Fairtrade bananas, I get 15p.

Customer:

But isn't it more expensive to buy Fairtrade bananas?

Child:

Yes, it is a bit more expensive but you are helping to ensure that the people who grow the bananas get a fair wage and are better able to look after their family. That's only fair, isn't it?

A girl carries bananas in Mine Bay Islands, Trobriand Islands. © UNICEF/HQ04-1286/Giacomo Pirozzi



NB Prices and profits are only approximate to illustrate the unfair distribution of income from the sale of bananas. For more information go to: www.fairtrade.org.uk

Conclusion

After the play, ask the assembly the following questions:

- At the beginning of the play, who was making the most money from bananas?
- Who made the second largest amount of money?
- Do you think this is fair?
- Do you think that we should buy Fairtrade bananas?
- Why?
- How can you tell whether they are Fairtrade?
- Do you think this is a matter of rights and responsibilities? Whose?

[There could be wide range of responses looking at the responsibilities of people in the UK to pay a fair price so children in other countries are able to realise their rights to education, health, nutritious food, and so on.]