

Fairtrade bingo

An activity developed for Devon Development Education



Aim

To demonstrate in an active and engaging way the benefits of Fairtrade to farmers and producers in developing countries.

Ideal age group: 10-14

Optimum group size: 18 -30 students

Time: 20-30 minutes

Resources:

- Blank bingo sheets – one per student
- Six case studies – one per group/country
- World Map (Peters)
- Fairtrade products (from each country: Cuban orange juice, tea, coffee, sugar, Divine or Dubble chocolate bar, bananas)

Activity details

Place students in six groups to represent the six countries: Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Ghana, Malawi, Sri Lanka.

Give each group a country case study. Ask students to familiarize themselves well with the character/s in the case study, the country and the product. Tell them that they will take on these characters for the bingo game. Stress the importance of keeping the information in their case study to themselves.

Next hand out the bingo sheets – one per student. Students can first find the clue/s to their own character/s, product and country and fill this in.

Then the game can begin with students moving around to try and fill up their grids. They do this by asking questions of students in other groups e.g. “Are you the person who hopes to spend money from the Fairtrade social premium on a new brick house?” Students need to remember to stay in role and answer as the character in the case study.

The activity could be done competitively: the first person to have completed the grid shouts out “bingo”.

After the bingo game, back in country groups, ask one member to say their name, their occupation, the product they farm/produce and one way in which Fairtrade has benefited them. Finally, after each group has shared this information, give the group a ‘finished’ product, e.g. chocolate bar, packet of tea etc and ask them to place the product on the right country on a large world map placed on the floor.

Student's grid

<p>Who would find themselves in deep debt without Fairtrade? Name: Country: Product:</p>	<p>Who is a member of the co-operative that partly owns the company producing Divine and Dubble chocolate bars? Name: Country: Product:</p>	<p>Which farmer likes to dance! Name: Country: Product:</p>
<p>Who is being encouraged to protect the environment by stopping using chemicals on their farm thanks to Fairtrade? Name: Country: Product:</p>	<p>Who hopes to spend money from the Fairtrade social premium on a new brick house? Name: Country: Product:</p>	<p>Who believes it is important that women have a strong voice to represent themselves? Name: Country: Product:</p>
<p>Who has seen the introduction of electricity to their home thanks to the Fairtrade social premium? Name: Country: Product:</p>	<p>Who teaches in her local primary school? Name: Country: Product:</p>	<p>Who would like money gained from Fairtrade spent on a health clinic? Name: Country: Product:</p>



Fairtrade bingo (answers)

<p>Who would find themselves in deep debt without Fairtrade? Name: Isobel and/or Adolfo Country: Costa Rica Product: Coffee</p>	<p>Who is a member of the co-operative that partly owns the company producing Divine and Dubble chocolate bars? Name: Comfort Country: Ghana Product: Cocoa</p>	<p>Which farmer likes to dance! Name: Carlos Country: Cuba Product: Oranges (juice)</p>
<p>Who is being encouraged to protect the environment by stopping using chemicals on their farm thanks to Fairtrade? Name: Renson Country: Ecuador Product: Bananas</p>	<p>Who hopes to spend money from the Fairtrade social premium on a new brick house? Name: Carlos Country: Cuba Product: Oranges (juice)</p>	<p>Who believes it is important that women have a strong voice to represent themselves? Name: Sivapackiam Country: Sri Lanka Product: Tea</p>
<p>Who has seen the introduction of electricity to their home thanks to the Fairtrade social premium? Name: Sivapackiam Country: Sri Lanka Product: Tea</p>	<p>Who teaches in her local primary school? Name: Comfort Country: Ghana Product: Cocoa</p>	<p>Who would like money gained from Fairtrade spent on a health clinic? Name: Jameson Country: Malawi Product: Sugar (cane)</p>



Carlos is an orange producer from Cuba



Carlos leaves his house at around 6.00am, and typically works until 6.00pm, with a two-hour lunch break.

His small wooden house is on the outskirts of the town, close to the countryside. Carlos' wife works as a public health supervisor. Carlos earns 270 pesos a month; he says he can more or less manage on this money. "Life is hard but we get food from the co-operative (part of what we produce). Every once in a long while my wife and I are able to go out for dinner to a Chinese restaurant" says Carlos

Cubans love dancing and Carlos is no exception. "We take children from the schools to sing in a choir. I take my own cassette player there so they can dance. Dancing is in our Cuban blood. It comes naturally to us, it really does!"

The farmers have only a small room where they go for meals as a group and where they hold cultural activities. There are about 70 farmers and they have no space where they can all come together. "With Fairtrade we have the opportunity to spend money on houses for the co-operative farmers and something for recreation."

Carlos is grateful for the security Fairtrade provides, guaranteeing minimum prices, as well as the social premium which boosts the farmers' incomes. He hopes that this money can be used to build a brick house for himself and other farmers in the near future.

"Life for farmers is changing for the better, and Fairtrade is an important part of that. We are very grateful." Says Carlos

Based on FTF case study: http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/suppliers_growers_juice_carlos.htm

Comfort is a cocoa farmer in Ghana. She is a widow, with five children. She is in her early 50s.



Comfort gets up at 6am, does the household chores and then goes to the farm where she weeds, plants plantain, yam, cocoa beans and vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers. The cocoa harvest is from September to February. It is the time of year when Comfort works hardest. The cocoa beans have to be fermented and then dried for six days – it is a lot of work!

As well as farming cocoa beans, Comfort also teaches at her local primary school. Living in the small town of Mim in the Ashanti region of Ghana, she is a member of Kuapa Kokoo Union cocoa farmers co-operative. The co-operative was set up in 1993 and now has 35,000 members. Kuapa own a third of the The Day Chocolate Company who manufacture Fairtrade Divine and Dubble chocolate bars in the UK.

Comfort believes that Fairtrade deserves its name because it is fair. She says: "We would like more cocoa to be sold to Fairtrade because it means a better price for the producer. Before, we farmers were cheated. We got little money from selling out cocoa beans and no bonuses. The farmers' welfare was neglected. I joined Kuapa because I saw it was the only organisation which could solve some of our problems – they trade without cheating, with the welfare of farmers at heart. During the lean season there was no money. Now there is a Credit Union so we can borrow money to help keep our farms going".

Based on FTF case study: http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/suppliers_growers_cocoa_comfort.htm

Jameson is a sugar farmer from Malawi. He is married to Dorothy and they have nine children, five of whom live at home.



Jameson is one of 380 unpaid priests in Malawi who preach at churches throughout the region. He is also on the management committee of Kasinthula Sugar Cane Growers (KCG). He is very excited about the first orders of Fairtrade sugar that KCG recently received - 750 tonnes ordered from three UK companies. The Fairtrade sugar sales will mean an extra £40,000 for much needed community projects in the very poor villages around Jameson's home.

Jameson works very hard but has little to show for it. By 5am Jameson is in the field tending to his sugar cane and the children set off for school at 6am. On his three acres, he clears the ground of weeds and carries out other tasks to increase his sugar cane production.

His family is very poor and like many others in Malawi they frequently go without meals. That is why being a member of an organisation registered to supply the Fairtrade market could really benefit the poorest farmers like Jameson. The money will go towards community development projects to improve conditions in villages where the farmers live. A Fairtrade committee of farmers has been set up to help decide how the money will be spent. Ideas for how to use this money include supplying clean water to villages that don't yet have it, to restore a health clinic to treat diseases including cholera and diarrhea and to provide a primary school and secondary school.

The first thing that Jameson wants is a health clinic as his wife, Dorothy, has a problem with her leg. The public hospital is too far away and private medical care is too expensive. 'A clinic would make a big difference for us,' says Jameson.

Based on FTF case study: http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/downloads/pdf/jameson_profile.pdf

Isabel and Adolfo are coffee farmers from Costa Rica.



Husband and wife team Adolfo and Isabel are passionate about their four children. They want to give them a good education They also want to preserve their close-knit family life on the coffee farm where each child already has his or her own little patch of coffee plants.

Adolfo and Isabel have two main activities on their two hectare farm: they cultivate coffee and rear cows for milk and cheese. Coffee provides most of their income. The couple are members of Coopeldos which exports part of its coffee crop to the Fairtrade market

“I hope consumers will buy more Fairtrade coffee so we can maintain ourselves like this,” says Adolfo.

“If it wasn't for Fairtrade, with prices so low at the moment, we would get deeper and deeper into debt. I know other producers who are getting into debt. Some abandon coffee altogether, and then the father goes and seeks work in the city or in a hotel, or in the United States. When that happens, the family is split up. If the family stays together, it protects the children - against problems such as drug addiction.” Says Adolfo

During the harvest season, which lasts 2-3 months, Isabel gets up at 3 in the morning. Before leaving the house she cleans, washes clothes, and prepares breakfast. She also prepares lunch, which she will later take to the field. Adolfo goes to the field after breakfast at 5am. The children help with collecting the coffee berries before and after school. Unusually, Adolfo and Isabel pay their children for picking coffee. Rubí, their 10 year-old, has used his earning to invest in a calf, which he will sell when it is mature.

Based on FTF case study: http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/suppliers_growers_coffee_isabel.htm

Sivapackiam is a tea picker in Sri Lanka. She's married with four children and is 38 years old.



Sivapackiam has been picking tea on the same estate for 23 years. Her mother and grandmother did the same job before her, and it's a hard life. The tea pickers have to carry 10-15 kilos of tea to the weighing place, which can be three quarters of a kilometre away. For this she takes home the equivalent of 80 pence a day.

She says: "We eat rice and one vegetable. We would like to have two or three vegetables but we cannot afford it. Towards the end of every month we find it difficult."

All workers on tea estates that supply the Fairtrade market have a workers' organisation to represent their interests. Sivapackiam is the women's leader on the Fairtrade registered estate where she works. She believes it is important that women have a strong voice to represent themselves. Sivapackiam is also a member of a group that decides how to use the Fairtrade premium.

She gives an example of the difference this can make: "A year ago, we didn't have any electricity in our houses. All the members of the Joint Body got together and discussed how we could pay to install it. Some money came from the Fairtrade premium and we each took out a loan. With electricity, my children can study at night. In the morning I can iron their clothes and we can use a hot plate for cooking. I am happy that Fairtrade helps me support my family."

Based on FTF case study: http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/suppliers_growers_tea_sivapackiam.htm

Renson is a banana farmer from El Guabo, Ecuador. He is married, with two children. He is 29 years old.



Renson gets up each day at 6am. His wife makes his breakfast, which often includes rice and green bananas. By seven thirty, he is at work on his farm alongside his father and uncle. Once a week, with the help of a team of local workers, boxes of bananas are checked for size and defects, then packed into boxes to be sent to the local port. Renson and his family need to work at watering the banana plants, keeping down weeds, and wrapping the growing bananas in plastic bags for protection. With a break for lunch at eleven (sometimes fish from the coast nearby) Renson works till four in the afternoon.

Renson is proud of the new home he been able to build for his wife and his two young children since selling his Fairtrade bananas. His father now has a place of his own, in the old wooden house next door. He hopes to give his children the education he missed out on.

For Renson, the benefits of Fairtrade also include a stable, higher price for his bananas and being encouraged to protect the environment by stopping using chemicals on his farm. The cooperative that Renson works for also gave him a loan to help him irrigate his land and put in tanks for washing the bananas. The members of the cooperative help each other, lending small amounts of money to each other when they need it.

Renson's ambition is simply to be able to carry on selling bananas to the Fairtrade market. "I don't want Fairtrade to disappear – for the sake of all us small producers. We're not millionaires, but we're proud of being in Fairtrade.

Based on FTF case study: http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/suppliers_growers_bananas_renson.htm