

COFFEE BREAK Lesson ideas

Here are some ideas for learning about coffee and fair trade. Many of them will also help students develop useful skills of research, presentation, critical thinking and working together. A selection of ideas is provided so that teachers can pick those suitable for their class and subject (including citizenship, geography, media, English and science). Most of the ideas could be adapted for older or younger students.

Shorter activities

These are ideal for use in tutorial time, as lesson starters or as homework.



- Coffee quiz (see coffee sheet 1). The answers are 1a, 2b, 3c, 4c, 5a, 6b, 7c, 8b, 9b, 10b. This quiz can be used with or without the multiple-choice answers. (KS2-5)
- Carry out a break time survey of children and teachers. How many people drink tea or coffee or eat chocolate at break time? (KS2-4)
- Work out how much money your family spends on tea, coffee and chocolate in a week. How much do they spend in a year? Does that surprise you? (KS2-4)
- Investigate your local shops and supermarkets. Who stocks fair trade products? Which products do they stock? How does the price of fair trade products compare to non-fair trade products? (KS3-5)
- Use coffee sheet 2 to investigate where the money from the sale of a cup of coffee goes. Shade the jar to show what you expect the division of money to be. In reality 7p goes to farmers, 3p to middlemen and £1.20 to the retail companies. (KS2-3)
- Match the captions to the photographs. (KS2)

Longer activities – finding out more

Activities for investigating the issues around coffee trade in more detail.

- Look at the pictures on coffee sheet 3. Match them to the captions and put them in the right order to show coffee production. (KS2-3)
- In groups, study the case studies from Haiti on coffee sheet 4. Use the table on coffee sheet 5 to summarise the benefits of fair trade. (KS3-4)



- Work in groups of about 7. Cut out the case studies from coffee sheet 4 and give one to each person in the group. One student should read out the introductory information and then each person should read his or her role. Take it in turns to be in the 'hot-seat' whilst the other students ask your character questions. (KS3-4)
- In pairs, role-play the situation on coffee sheet 6. One person in the pair should be a farmer growing fair trade coffee and that person should try and persuade the other farmer to switch to fair trade production. This can stand alone, or be used as a follow up to one of the previous two activities. (KS3-4)
- Complete a Why?Why?Why? chain as on coffee sheet 7 to show the reasons why many coffee farmers are poor. Think of two reasons, and write these in the middle boxes. Then think of a reason for each of these two reasons, and put these in the boxes on the right. You can add more boxes and lines if you want to. (KS2-5)
- Produce an issue tree. Draw a tree trunk on a large piece of paper and label it with your issue (unfair trade, low coffee prices etc). Draw roots and label them with the causes of the problem. Draw branches and label them with the effects, then draw fruit and label it with solutions. Discuss how the tree helps you understand the issue. Which parts are more useful? Are some solutions more important than others? (KS2-5)
- Carry out a web search to compare views on coffee trading from fair trade and conventional coffee companies. (KS3-5). The group could be divided into two, with half preparing to argue for fair trade and half defending current practices.

Longer activities – taking action

These activities can lead into fundraising, campaigning or awareness raising actions. Actions are likely to take several lessons and time outside lessons.

- Write and design a newspaper article about the 24-hour coffee break. Remember to mention the reasons why it is being held and what your group is doing to raise money. (KS2-4)
- Plan an assembly or make posters to tell people about fair trade. (KS2-4)
- Invite parents in for an Ethiopian coffee ceremony (see details in fundraising pack). You could hold an assembly or a play, or display posters about fair trade. (KS2)
- Draw an action tree to help you decide what to do next. Label the trunk with the issue of fair trade, the fruit with possible actions, the branches with ways of achieving these actions and the roots with the resources needed. Discuss each possible action in turn. (KS2-5)



- Fill in the Which Action Matrix on coffee sheet 8 to help you decide which is the best action to take. (KS3-4)
- Fill in the Action Plan on coffee sheet 9 to help you plan your action. (KS3-4)
- Once you have carried out your action, think about how well things worked. Use the Reflect questions on coffee sheet 10 to discuss your action within the group. Write the answers on cut out balloons and display them around the room. (KS2-4)



Other useful resources from ActionAid

ActionAid produces a wide range of resources for schools.

Free KS3/4 resources on coffee can be downloaded from www.actionaid.org.uk/index.asp?page_id=1265 including:

- **Coffee cooperatives.** Includes teachers' notes on coffee farming and trade in Haiti, and students' pages with information and activities for French lessons.
- **Biotechnology.** Includes teacher's notes on Genetically Modified coffee and pupil activities suitable for science and citizenship lessons.

The latest resource in ActionAid's Chembakolli range, **Chembakolli Tea Party**, is ideal for introducing KS2 pupils to trade issues. It is full of fascinating facts about the people who pick the tea, how they do it, why they planted it and how it is traded. Activities include tea games, tea-box decorating competitions and decision-making exercises. Available March 2005.

Several of the activities above are taken from **Get Global!** - a skills-based approach to active global citizenship. It takes KS3/4 pupils through six steps of asking questions, choosing an issue, getting information, and planning, carrying out and evaluating an action. **Get Global!** is the ideal way to study an issue such as fair trade in more detail. See www.getglobal.org.uk, email schools@actionaid.org.uk or phone 01460 238000.

www.globallinks.org.uk gives students an exciting insight into some of the countries where ActionAid works and the issues affecting people in those countries. The site encourages users to watch video and slide shows, ask questions, share ideas, vote on issues and take action.

Further resources

www.jusbiz.org/resources/coffee.shtml lists many other coffee resources

www.globaleye.org.uk/secondary_autumn04/eyeon/coffeetrade.html has interactive resources about coffee

www.fairtrade.org.uk: The Fairtrade Foundation

www.cafedirect.co.uk: fair trade coffee suppliers

www.costa.co.uk: coffee shops

www.nestle.co.uk and www.kraftafh.co.uk: coffee retailers

www.ico.org: international coffee organisation