

Addressing issues of Global Citizenship

Fair trade

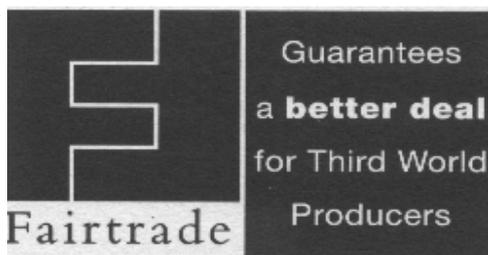
| Important topic information

A question of *Fair trade*

The rules of international trade favour rich countries over poor countries.

Yet for its industry and consumption the north is dependent on commodities from the south. In return, many in the south rely on selling basic goods, such as coffee, tea, cocoa and cotton for their livelihoods.

However prices for these goods fluctuate widely, and working conditions are often bad, with low wages, poor health and safety and no job security.



What is *Fair trade* and why should we support it?

Fair trade products ensure a better deal for third world producers guaranteeing them a minimum fair price for products which is always above the world price, fairer wages, and decent working conditions. It enables consumers to declare their support for the principles of social justice in trade with Third World Producers.

How can we know if it is a *Fair trade* product?

Look out for the *Fairtrade Mark* on the packaging of teas, coffees, chocolates, honey and other products.

Does *Fair trade* really make a difference?

The *Fairtrade Mark* is only awarded to producers that meet specific requirements as outlined by the Fair trade Foundation. The producers must show democratic organisation, allow participation in a Trade Union, and guarantee good housing and health and safety standards. There must be no child labour and production techniques must ensure environmentally sustainable practices.

What products can we buy which are fairly traded?

There are currently more than 70 coffee, tea, chocolate and honey products that carry the *Fairtrade Mark* and more and more Fair trade products are becoming available.

Where can we buy *Fair trade* products?

Most supermarkets now sell *Fair trade* products as well as Oxfam shops and Traidcraft. Look out for shops near you which are members of BAFTS (British Association for Fair Trade Shops). *Fair*

| Classroom activity

EXERCISING RIGHTS, AND TAKING RESPONSIBILITY: THE WORLD OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Global citizenship education identifies key areas of knowledge, skills and attitudes which foster concern for social justice and the environment.

It helps develop critical thinking skills and enables these to be applied to complex and controversial issues.

A Global Citizen is someone who:

- has an understanding of how the world works economically, politically, socially, culturally, technologically and environmentally*
- understands the links between their own lives and those of people throughout the world*
- is outraged by social injustice*
- participates in and contributes to the community at a range of levels from the local to the global*
- is willing to act to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place*

(based on Oxfam Curriculum for Global Citizenship)