

The Sweet Taste of Fairtrade

Banana and Marshmallow Kebabs - a tasty introduction to the world (and importance) of Fairtrade.

Get in touch and let us know about your experiences of using The Sweet Taste of Fairtrade with your pupils at: info@as-creatives.com or tweet us @ascreatives

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Activity Overview

The Fairtrade movement started more than sixty years ago - and is now a global organisation, dedicated to both offering farmers fair prices and supporting the rights of workers. And this unique activity offers the perfect introduction to exploring the world of fair trade - and how it improves people's lives.

Target Audience

KS1, KS2

Resources

- Fairtrade bananas (about one between four)
- Non-Fairtrade bananas (about one between four)
- Marshmallows (two per pupil - there are lots of vegan brands available, so no-one needs to be excluded!)
- Cocktail sticks (two per pupil)
- Plastic plates (two different colours)

Instructions:

Divide the pupils into two groups. Group 1 will work with the Fairtrade bananas, Group 2 with the non-Fairtrade produce (for the time being, just call these Banana 1 and Banana 2).

Each group will make enough Banana and Marshmallow Kebabs so that there is one for each pupil in the class:

(a) peel the bananas and cut them into circular slices (numeracy opportunity: how many slices will they need per banana?). Depending on the age of your pupils, of course, you may wish to prepare these yourself.

b) assemble the kebabs: two slices of banana threaded on a cocktail stick so that they sandwich a marshmallow.

Place the Fairtrade Kebabs on plates of one colour - and the Non-Fairtrade Kebabs on plates of the other colour.

Conduct a Taste Test - is there a difference between the two kebabs? There almost certainly won't be. Explain that Group 1 were working with Fairtrade bananas - which means that the people who grew them are paid better than the people who grow non-Fairtrade bananas. And that they also enjoy better working conditions - and have more control over their lives. Does that knowledge mean that one now leaves a sweeter taste in the mouth ...?

Extension Activities

Create a map of the world showing which countries export Fairtrade bananas. Then look at some other Fairtrade products (coffee, for example - or chocolate).

Outcomes

Introduction to and increased understanding of complex issues; global issues; team work; fine motor skills.

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