

## Topic: Making economic decisions

<b>Lesson: Fair trade and ethical spending</b>	<b>KS or Year Group: Year 7/8</b>
<b>Resources:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Web access</li><li>2. Resource 1 - Fair trade information</li><li>3. Resource 2 – Achieving Fairtrade Status at school</li></ol>	<b>Outcomes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students understand the debate on ethical spending.</li><li>• Students learn about fair trade.</li></ul>

### National Curriculum

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Key Concepts: 1.1b, 1.2a

Key Processes: 2.1b, 2.3a, 2.3b, 2.3c

Range and Content: 3e

### Lesson

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This lesson looks at the ethical dimension of consumer spending, with particular attention to the issue of fair trade.

### Starter

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- Students are asked to list the consumer items that they have bought in the last year and have not used recently. How does this make them feel about waste and the way they spend money?
- If you have access to the web in class, show the website [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) to the students. This requires a Yahoo log-in and approval from the group moderator, so it must be set up well in advance (preferably at least a day before the lesson). It is advisable for you to log into your most local group. If you are unable to get internet access in class, then print out a few pages of the latest listings and distribute amongst the students to give them a good idea of how the website works.
- Ask the students to find things for free that they would normally spend money on? What was the last major household purchase that their parent/s bought? Are they able to find it on here? Do they have anything at home that they no longer need that they could put up on the site?

## Fair trade and ethical spending

- Explain that The Freecycle Network is a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving and getting stuff for free in their own towns. It is also a very large network - it is made up of over 4,000 groups with more than 5 million members across the globe. What is the point behind freecycling? Does that class think that the website might have a big impact on people's behaviour?

## Main activity

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### Activity 1

- How can students spend their money in a more ethical way? What is meant by the word 'ethical'?
- Ask the students to come up with their own definitions of the phrase 'ethical spending'. For teacher's reference, a good working definition might be spending that benefits others rather than harming or exploiting them. Use the best student example on the board.
- Get students to give their own examples of ethical spending, i.e. spending that has helped someone else as well as getting something for themselves. This could be buying goods from a charity shop or from a fair trade organisation.

### Activity 2

- Ask the students if they have heard of fair trade. If some have heard of it, try to connect what they know to issues that might have come to light in the media, e.g. exploitation of workers in China, etc.
- Distribute **Resource 1 – The fair trade debate**. Ask them to write an article for the school newspaper or website about why fair trade is a good thing and how students can bring it to the school.

## Plenary

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Ask students to summarise the benefits of fair trade and describe how they might use this information to implement changes in their own lives.

Distribute copies of **Resource 2 – Achieving Fairtrade Status at school** and challenge students to try and set their own campaign up.

### Summary of key learning

- Students learn key ideas about the concept of ethic spending.
- Students develop understanding about fair trade.
- Students are able to implement what they have learnt into active citizenship.

## Resource 1: Fair trade information

**“One fifth of the world’s humanity live in countries where many people think nothing of spending \$2 a day on a cappuccino. Another fifth of the human race survive on less than \$1 a day.”**

Fairtrade is a way of trying to tackle some of the trade injustices that exist in the world which lead to a situation where the majority of people live in poverty, whilst the minority have wealth and security.



**Price:** Millions of people throughout the world do not earn enough money to live on, with 20% of the world’s population still living on less than \$1 a day. Fair trade tries to overcome the problem by getting a fairer price for the products produced by poor farmers in poor countries.

**Example:** The current coffee crisis is a case in point. Coffee prices have been in a five-year slump, but under fair trade schemes growers are paid about \$1.20 (62p) for a pound of coffee - roughly double the market price.

**Premium:** Products carrying the Fairtrade mark pay money to the producer communities. This is a set amount of cash which is paid on top of the guaranteed price. This is invested in community projects or improving the business or to invest in health care facilities.

**Planet:** Fair trade helps improve environmental standards and aims towards helping farmers to work using more sustainable farming practices. These standards include minimising the use of fertilizers and pesticides and where practical working towards organic production.

**Power:** Workers on tea estates are allowed to join trade unions and small farmers are able to work together in co-operatives. There is no forced or child labour and there are no dangerous chemicals because there are set health and safety standards.

**People:** Fair trade also allows us to know how and where the things we use and buy were made as well as making us more aware of the impact our life styles have on other people and on the environment. For example, some people would not want to buy goods from Zimbabwe at the moment because of the human right issues going on there.

**Summary:** Fair trade is all about trying to make a difference. It is about trying to say that you are aware of the injustices in the world and are doing something about it by buying only products that do not exploit people less well off than yourself.

## Resource 2 – Achieving Fairtrade Status at school



### Try and achieve Fairtrade Status for your school

Students all over the UK have been running fantastic campaigns to introduce Fairtrade products to their schools. Schools have spread the word of the injustice suffered by farmers in a globalised world.

### How does a school get Fairtrade Status?

The Fairtrade Status award will be given to schools by the Fairtrade Foundation. Schools have to meet the 5 goals set out by the Fairtrade Foundation in order to be awarded Fairtrade Status.

### The five Fairtrade Schools goals

1. Have a Fairtrade School Steering Group which includes at least 50% students.
2. Write and adopt a Fairtrade Policy for the whole school.
3. Sell, promote and use Fairtrade products at internal meetings, common rooms, staff rooms and open events.
4. Ensure the whole school learns about Fairtrade issues in lessons and other ways such as assemblies.
5. Promote and take action for Fairtrade in the school and the wider community by holding three whole-school activities a year and one event open to the local community.

*Going for Fairtrade Status is a perfect way to make sure your school makes a long-term commitment to help challenge the unfair rules that keep so many in poverty.*

Courtesy of [peopleandplanet.org](http://peopleandplanet.org)