

Where Do Bananas Come From?

Teacher's Notes

Summary	Children use cards to show how bananas reach their kitchen.
Activities	<p>Children are provided with information about how bananas get to their kitchen. Two sheets summarise the process.</p> <p>They arrange cards on these sheets (or tick appropriate options) to show the use of energy, production of carbon dioxide, creation of jobs and production of waste during the process.</p>
Teacher info	<p>During discussion with the children, highlight areas where energy is being used, waste is being created and people are kept in employment.</p> <p>Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production• Processing• Transport• Packaging• Retail shops• Disposal• Wealth creation and who benefits from the banana production and sale <p>Points to raise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Banana plantations require land.• Plantations, harvesting and processing employ people. Major source of income for the West Indies' economy.• Energy is required to harvest the bananas.• The products are then packaged for transport.• Approximately 4,000 miles from WI to UK by boat.• More energy is then used in transporting bananas (by road) to their point of sale.• We may drive to the supermarket to buy the bananas.• We create waste (from empty packaging and labels) which has to be collected from our homes for disposal.
Timing	45 minutes in class
Resources	Worksheet and cards supplied below. Access to internet if research into Windward Islands.
Curriculum links	Science – use a range of environmental contexts Geography – study a range of environments and understand how they are interdependent.
Differentiation	<p>Children can be asked to research about the West Indies using the internet and to see the economic importance of banana production. What would happen if we stopped buying their bananas because they come from such a distance?</p> <p>The main banana-producing islands are the Windward Islands (Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and Dominica).</p> <p>Useful web site at http://www.geest-bananas.co.uk/</p>
