

Chocopoly

Objective

Understand the necessity of Fairtrade, with regards to existing global trading systems and the power of the consumer.

Activity outline

In this role-playing activity, present to the class a large bar of chocolate and its approximate value, £2.00.

Divide the class into 5 groups, giving each group a card outlining one of the following roles in the 'chocolate chain':

- cocoa growers
- chocolate companies
- retailers
- UK taxman
- Ghanaian taxman

Ask each group to play and discuss their role – asking themselves; *what problems do we face?, where does our power lie in the chocolate chain?, how do we feel about their place in the chain?, and how much of the price of the chocolate bar do we deserve?*

Following a period of discussion, instruct each group to write down on a chart how much of the chocolate bar's £2.00 value they are entitled to pocket, and present their arguments to the rest of the class as to why.

When each group has presented their arguments to the class and added their money entitlement to the chart, the total result normally exceeds £2.00.

Ask the groups to negotiate with each other, bartering and making deals that lower their share prices.

At the end of the role-play present the real situation as a shocking reminder of the importance of Fairtrade initiatives:

- chocolate companies 40.5%
- retailers 28%
- UK tax 17.5%
- Ghanaian tax 7%
- cocoa growers 7%

(figures taken from Oxfam website)

During post-discussion, ask the class:

How does each group feel – powerful, manipulated, ticked off?

Are the percentages fair?

Finish by dividing up the chocolate bar into pieces for class!

Learning outcomes

- Participate in role-play activities
- Create arguments for and against
- Develop and use oral and listening skills for negotiation
- Find out about fair-trade and the role of consumer

Possible follow up/feedback discussion

Discuss with the class the implications of our desire as consumers for cheap imported food in the UK and its implications for everybody in the chain – *ask where should the savings be made?*

Discuss the effects on growers, e.g. lack of security, poverty trap, debt problems etc.

Discuss Fairtrade vs non Fairtrade and personal choices.

Resources used

- Large bar of chocolate
- Role cards
- Interactive white board