



Ideas for youth group activities

Icebreakers and discussion starters

Wool game icebreaker

In small circles (with up to 10 children), give a ball of wool (or string) to one child and ask them to hold on to the end. Ask them to pass or throw the ball of wool (or string) to another in the circle, saying how they are connected to each other, eg through a project or activity that they have done together, or something they have in common (a hobby, friend, or a like/dislike). Keep repeating passing the ball of wool (with the reason they are connected each time), with each child keeping hold of the wool as it is passed so that a web starts to form. Through developing more connections, and teamwork, the groups should eventually be able to develop the web until it can balance a chocolate bar on top – let them know this is their aim. To take this icebreaker further, ask one or two members of the group to let go of the wool, or to shake it up and down in their hands. The chocolate bar should fall, showing the implicit connection between the group members, and that if something affects one, it can affect all.

You can also do this activity by assigning young people with a role in the chocolate manufacturing process (See the String Game here <http://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/resources/activities-and-games>)

Fairtrade Quiz

Kick off with a quiz! Visit <http://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/resources/activities-and-games> and download the quiz.

My Fairtrade Adventure films

We have produced a set of films especially for young people, told from the perspective of Tayna, aged 13, from the UK who travelled to the Dominican Republic. Whilst there, she found out how cocoa is grown and harvested and the difference that Fairtrade can make to cocoa farmers. These videos are an engaging start to a discussion about the impact of our choices on the world around us, near and far. Visit <http://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/resources/videos> to download or stream the films.

There is a 9 minute film aimed at 7 to 11 year olds and for older children (over 11 years), My Fairtrade Adventure is split across three episodes.

They are:

1. Where does our food come from?
2. What's the point of Fairtrade?
3. Can changing what I buy really change lives?

They are approximately 7 minutes each and can be used all together as one film, or individually.



Discussion starter questions

You could use these discussion starters to follow up watching the film(s):

- What have you learnt about cocoa, and the people who grow it?
- Did anything in the films surprise you?
- Is the cocoa supply chain fair?
- What would happen if lots of farmers stopped growing cocoa?

Cocoa farm poster

If you're using cocoa or chocolate based activities, why not order a giant A0 sized scene setter poster of a cocoa farm to really bring it to life? You can order them from

<http://shop.fairtrade.org.uk/schools>

The Chocolate Trade Game

The chocolate trade game from Christian Aid is a tried and tested simulation game putting participants in the shoes of different parties in the chocolate industry.

http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/YouthLeaderResources/choc_trade.aspx

Cocoa role play

This assembly plan contains the script for a fun role play, exploring our inter connectedness with others across the world, fairness and justice. Download your copy from

<http://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/resources/assembly-plans>

Painting with coffee

Yes you read that right! Who needs paints if you have coffee? Just mix small amounts of hot water with Fairtrade coffee granules at different coffee/water ratios and paint away!

Hold a Fairtrade cake stall

Why not do baking at home or in your youth group (using Fairtrade ingredients of course!) and sell your masterpieces in the community? We have guides to making bunting, doilies and cake flags

here: <http://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/resources/activities-and-games>. If you would like to fundraise for the Fairtrade Foundation you can find all of the details here:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/fundraise>