

Where do All Good bananas come from?

Get children to think about where their food comes from and the love and care taken to produce the bananas that they eat and enjoy. This activity is designed to work alongside the Where do All Good Bananas come from poster which maps the different people in the journey a Fairtrade banana takes to get to Kiwi fruit bowls.

Activity #1: Where do All Good Bananas come from?

Preparation:

- The table on the flip side of this activity sheet contains 2 columns. These correspond with the Where do All Good Bananas Come From poster in your school pack.
 - The people and steps in the Fairtrade bananas journey are in column 1.
 - An explanation of the people and steps with some interesting banana facts is in column two.
- Print off the table and cut each section separately.

With the class:

- Before showing the class Where do All Good Bananas Come from poster, break the class up into 8 groups.
- Give each group a stage in the banana journey, listed from column 1. You could get the class to dress up to represent their role in the journey.
- Then ask the groups to order themselves in a big line to show each stage in the journey.
- They can talk to each other about their different roles to help agree where they fit.
- Once the groups are ordered correctly, share with them the Where do All Good Bananas come from poster to see if they are correct.
- Place the 8 descriptions from column 2 around the room. Ask the groups to find their description by reading the different sections. Once they've identified their section they have to get back into their line. The first group back wins the challenge!
- Ask a representative from each group to read out their information for the class from start to finish. Talk about some of the things they've learnt from the exercise.



Small Family Farmer



El Guabo Fairtrade cooperative

Fairtrade Bananas are grown with love and care by small family farmers from the El Guabo Cooperative in Ecuador.

There are 430 small family farmers in the El Guabo cooperative.

Fairtrade ensures that the farmers are paid a fair and stable price all year round for their crop.

Bananareo



Banana worker using organic fertiliser

Fairtrade farmers use natural farming methods where possible to help the bananas grow big and strong and protect the environment.

It takes about 6-7 months for a little plant to grow big enough to produce a banana flower.

A few days later a tiny bunch of baby bananas emerges behind the flower.

It takes another 2 months for the fruit to grow to full size.

It takes about 9-12 months for bananas to fully grow.

Bananero



Banana worker harvesting Bananas

When the banana palms are ready to be harvested, the big bunch of bananas is carefully cut with a big long tool and lowered.

Bananas are actually picked green so they are as fresh as possible when they arrive in NZ.

A bananareo (banana worker) carries the banana on a pillow to stop any bruising. Some of the big banana bunches can weigh up to 30kg. The bananas are attached to a cable & transported to a packing shed.

Fairtrade makes sure bananareos have fair pay and safe working conditions.

Banana Packer



Cleaning & packing Bananas

In the packing shed, the bananas are brushed (with a toothbrush!) to remove any little flowers, then washed with a hose to get rid of any bugs, then soaked in water for an extra clean. (The water is then recycled back onto the farm to water the banana plants).

The bananas are then cut into bunches, taped and carefully packed into boxes ready for their journey to New Zealand.

Transporting bananas



across the Pacific

Bananas travel from the farms to the city of Guayaquil on the coast of Ecuador, where they are loaded onto a huge container ship at the local port.

They travel from Ecuador to Auckland, stopping in Panama on the way.

The journey across the Pacific Ocean is 12,628km. It takes 3 weeks!

Banana Ripener



& Distributor

They bananas arrive in Auckland. The New Zealand port officials (MAF) check them over to make sure no Ecuadorian bugs jumped on the ship as stow aways!

Then All Good ripen them from green to a nice yellow – just how you like them!

They are sent out by truck to stores all around the country.

Shop keeper



Fairtrade bananas and other fairtrade products, such as coffee, chocolate and sugar, are sold in supermarkets around the county.

Shop managers like to be able to give people a choice, and Fairtrade lets people make a choice that they know is helping to support small farmers and give them a fair deal.

Did you know that you can ask your local shop to stock more Fairtrade products?

You



& your family

You buy bananas, eat them and enjoy them!

When you buy Fairtrade bananas, around 7 to 10 cents from every bunch sold is sent back to the farmers as a Fairtrade premium.

This is in addition to the fair price paid to farmers for each box.

The cooperative decides what to spend the money on and they support many different community projects.