



Fairtrade Fortnight Assembly for Primary Schools 2018

Celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight with a whole school assembly and let everyone know about the activities and events your Fairtrade Group is planning. If your Fairtrade Group is new, use this as an opportunity to introduce them – or to see if anybody else wants to join. This assembly is a fun way to introduce the importance of Fairtrade with a short role play. There is an accompanying Powerpoint with images, or these can be printed and displayed. (The powerpoint includes a holding slide at the beginning and slides are numbered to match up with the script).

OBJECTIVES:

- Learners find out about the hard work involved in producing the food we enjoy
- Learners reflect on the links they have with people all over the world through the food we eat
- Learners consider their role as consumers and the impact that their choices can have on producers

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:

You will need students to play the following parts:

Child 1

Child 2

Narrator

Rosa

Miguel

(Rosa and Miguel are Panamanian – they could be in boots and with umbrellas or waterproofs as there is reference to the climatic conditions for growing bananas)

SCRIPT:

	<i>Child one is eating a banana</i>
Child 2	I'm really hungry. That banana looks good.
Child 1	It is good. You can have a bit if you like. They are funny, aren't they?
Child 2	What are funny?
Child 1	Bananas! They are funny. How do you make one?
Child 2	You....don't. They grow on trees. Well, actually, they are herbs. But no one really knows that. They look like trees, but the stem has no wood.
Child 1	<i>[scoffs]</i> Yeah, right. I've never seen a banana growing on a tree. That is silly.



PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Child 2	Really! It's a fruit. Where else would it come from?
Child 1	Next you are going to tell me that chocolate grows on trees.
Child 2	Well, it kind of does....
Child 1	Um.....show me one then.
Child 2	Here, I have a picture. <i>[powerpoint slide 2]</i>
Child 1	Wow....they really do grow on trees. Herbs. Plants. But I've still never seen one.
Child 2	That's because they don't really grow well here in <i>[insert name of your town]</i> They grow in places that are hot with lots of rainfall. Like India, West Africa and Central America
Child 1	Wow. So my banana has travelled a really long way?
Child 2	Yes. Would you like to find out more?
Child 1	Yes, please!
Child 2	Your banana came from a country called Panama....
	<i>[Rosa and Miguel appear]</i>
Rosa	Hi! I'm Rosa from Panama and I want to tell you all about our bananas.
Miguel	And I'm Miguel and I'm going to help.
Rosa	Panama is over 5,000 miles away. <i>[powerpoint slide 3]</i>
Miguel	Farming bananas must be done by hand. There are no machines or combine harvesters that can do this! <i>[powerpoint slide 4]</i>
Rosa	Each stem can have lots of bananas on it – up to 200! And it is very heavy. <i>[powerpoint slide 5]</i>
Miguel	It is cut down, and taken to be cut into smaller bunches, known as 'hands', and washed and packed in boxes. <i>[powerpoint slide 6]</i>
Rosa	The bananas go by truck to the port, and then by boat. It takes 8 days for the boat to get to the UK. The bananas will be ripened and sent to supermarkets.
Child 1	Wow. That is a lot of work. All that for 17p for my banana???
Child 2	Yes. Let's find out more about these farmers...
Miguel	This group of farmers used to work for a big company. They worked hard, but made little money, so had to make tough choices about how to spend it.
Rosa	Sometimes they would not have enough money to buy food, and pay school fees, or buy medicines if someone in the family was sick.
Miguel	They lived in small, crowded houses and had too little money to improve them. Life was hard, and people had very few ways of making it better. <i>[powerpoint slide 7]</i>
Child 1	<i>[shocked]</i> But they sold all those bananas?



Rosa	The farmers did not receive much for the hard work they did. One day they had an opportunity to buy their land. It took all their money, and a big loan too. For ten years they still did not get a better price as they had to sell to one buyer at a fixed price.
Miguel	Things changed when they started selling their bananas to the Co-op on Fairtrade terms.
Child 1	What does that mean??
Rosa	They got a better price for their bananas, and some money on top to spend on their community.
Miguel	They started to build new homes and spent money on making sure their farms were producing as much fruit as possible. <i>[powerpoint slide 8]</i>
Child 1	Ah, yes. Bananas are fruit.
Miguel	Most importantly, they were able to manage their own business.
Child 1	Wow. So how do I know who has grown my banana? I want everyone who produced my food to be paid fairly.
Rosa	<i>[powerpoint slide 9]</i> The FAIRTRADE Mark on the banana means that the farmers have been paid the Fairtrade price and received the Premium. Plus, they have safer working conditions and all this is checked in an audit. Choosing things with the FAIRTRADE Mark means that the farmers that produced your product are improving their lives.
Child 1	Right! That's brilliant. They should have that on other things too.
Miguel	It is. The FAIRTRADE Mark is on loads of things. Like tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, flowers, fruit....
Child 1	Bananas are fruit. The plant is a herb.
Child 2	You are really getting the hang of this.
Narrator	<p>We don't always think about where our food and drink comes from, and who has worked hard for us to have them. It is important to make informed choices.</p> <p>This is Fairtrade Fortnight, when we are particularly thinking about getting a fair deal for farmers and workers. <i>[powerpoint slide 10]</i></p> <p>Our school is getting involved in Fairtrade Fortnight by..... <i>[add details of your events and activities here to encourage everyone to come on in to Fairtrade]</i></p>