

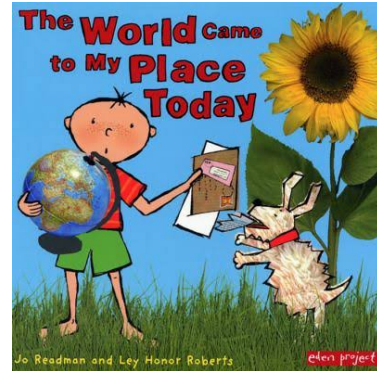
The Wonderful WORLD of Food

Activities to introduce the global-ness of food to primary students

Getting Started

Bring a global dimension into the classroom by bringing in a global them at story time or try out food from around the world at snack time. For either activity, make sure you have a map of the world on display so that the children can explore where different things and people come from.

"I wish the world could really come to visit me, Grandpa," sighed George. "It already has," said Grandpa. "The rice in your cereal comes from China, and the oranges in your juice grew in sunny Spain." From *The World Came to My Place Today* ((Jo Readman, Random House 2002)



Activity: What's your favourite food?

Get children to draw or write about their favourite foods then compare them with foods that might be eaten by children in other parts of the world. Some should be very similar, some could introduce new foods and others could show foods which grow in their countries.

Show pics of children from other countries around the world eating different food.

Activity: What food is this?

Show children the first photo and get them to guess what food or drink it is.

Then reveal the second photo.

Ask them where they think that food grows.

Place the pictures on a map to show where the various foods come from in the world.

Coffee – the plant and the drink:



Pineapple – from the plant to the table:



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Food facts

Potatoes: Did you know that the Indians in Peru were the first people to cultivate the potato over 4000 years ago? The Andes are the birthplace of the "Irish" white potato. The Symara Indians developed over 200 varieties at elevations of over 10,000 feet above sea level.

Cucumber: Did you know that the cucumber is one of the oldest cultivated crops? Believed to have originated in the northern plains of India, it's a member of the cucurbita family, which includes pumpkins, squashes and melons.

Oranges: Did you know that there are over 600 varieties of orange? Brazil is the world's biggest producer of oranges, and Florida the second biggest. About half the world's orange juice and 80% of the world's orange concentrate come from Brazil.

Bananas: Wikipedia could be a starting place for research about bananas, their banana page is: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banana> and there are further details about the banana family at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musa_\(genus\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musa_(genus)) *Unpeeling the banana trade* is a Fairtrade Foundation briefing paper. Download it from the Fairtrade Foundation website (PDF). The first page lists useful facts; the rest of the document goes into greater detail about the trade.

Getting Critical

Going deeper into food's global links

For example, why not explore the global dimension of bananas? You could focus on cultivation and trade, tracking the journey from the tree to the fruit bowl, and – as bananas were amongst the first goods to get Fairtrade status – get a discussion going around the issues involved in fair trade.

In Canada we mainly eat sweet bananas as a snack or dessert. But what other kinds of banana are there and how are they used? [*There are over 1,000 types of bananas - the plantain is the second most popular type of banana which is used as a carbohydrate in savoury meals in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America*]

The banana is the most popular fruit in the world – how much money do you think the world's shoppers spend a year buying bananas? [*\$18 billion.*]

The majority of banana plantation workers do not earn enough to provide for their families. What do you think their wage might be? [*Some banana plantation workers earn less than \$2 a day; their wages have actually fallen drastically over the past 15 years.*]

Bananas were one of the first 'fairly traded' or 'Fairtrade' products. What does that mean? [*Fairtrade products are products that have received a certification from the Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International because the farmers have been paid a fair price and worked in decent conditions which helps to address some of the causes of poverty*]

What proportion of bananas sold in the UK are Fairtrade? [*In 2008, one in every four bananas sold in the UK was Fairtrade.*]

(All refs are from *Unpeeling the Banana Trade*, Fairtrade Foundation)

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Food in art and music



Food is a frequent subject in art, especially still life images, like this painting by [Paul Cézanne](#).

Read more online about [the long history of food in art](#).

Here are some more online arty ideas to inspire some “food creativity” in your students:

- a [food sculptures slideshow](#)
- the ‘foodscapes’ of the photographer [Carl Warner](#)
- [15 fascinating food artists and sculptors](#)

Food is also a popular subject for songs – try out these YouTube clips for starters. Do your students have any favourite food-related songs to share?

[Coffee & Tea \(Java Jive\) – The Ink Spots](#)

[Mashed potatoes – Dee Dee Sharp](#)

[Mama Lisa’s World](#) has a collection of songs, rhymes and traditions from across the world. You can search according to continent, country and language, and there are plenty of songs about food from many different cultures.

(credit for these ideas and activities goes to Global Dimension...the world in your classroom – a UK based resource, [Think Global](#))

Case Study

A trip to Nicaragua via the Botanic Garden/Muttart Conservatory?

If children get the opportunity to see and smell the plants and food products of another country, and try their hands at cooking the food, it really brings the global to life.

Use Paola’s Story to visit Nicaragua