

Fair Trade (lesson 2)



Recall:

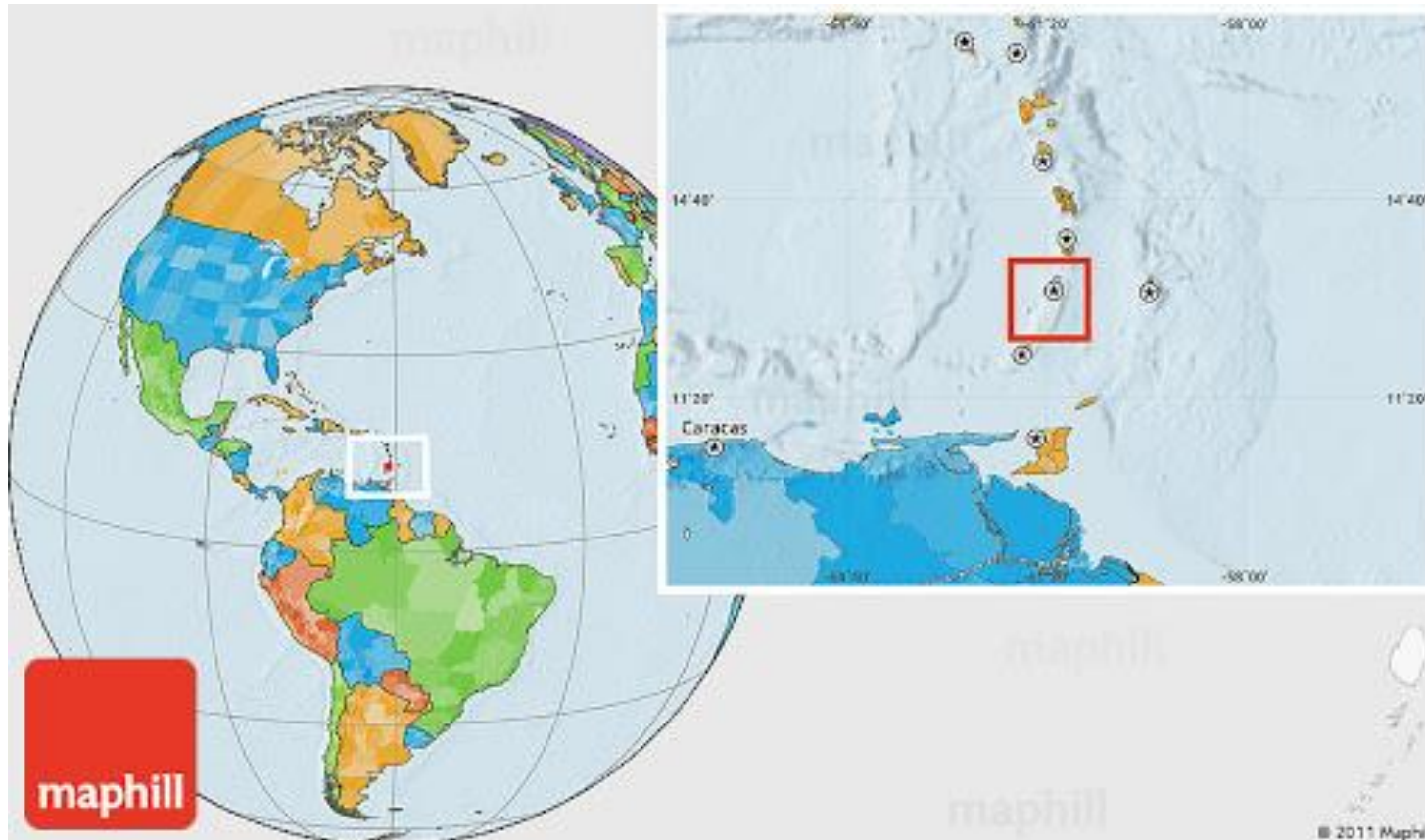
When you buy bananas, where does your money go?

How is the money shared between the different people and groups involved in the banana's journey?

Is it fair?

What is Fair Trade?

Today we are going to look at a case study of a banana plantation that is part of the Fair Trade scheme. That means that when people around the world buy bananas that have been produced there, more of the money they pay goes back to the country of origin.



The plantation is on the island of St Vincent, one of the Caribbean islands. It is difficult to see on the world map because it is so small!

You could use Google Earth to search for St Vincent to get a better idea of its size and where it is in the world.

Read the sheet that accompanies this lesson.

At the top of the sheet, there is a quote from Conrad Lynch, a banana plantation worker on St Vincent.

The rest of the sheet gives examples of how the money from the Fair Trade scheme has improved life on St Vincent.

There is a task for you to complete on the next page.

Banana production in St Vincent (The Caribbean)



Conrad Lynch – Banana farmer

"Fair trade has had a huge impact on me and our communities in many ways. Beginning with improving the standard of living, changing how we look at the environment, empowering producers and communities, and the list goes on. In short, Fair trade has proven to be our window of hope in this global environment."

A school bus for St Vincent

Money ~~has been invested~~ in buying and running a new school bus allowing children from the north east of the island to attend school in the capital, Kingstown. Previously, the children were reliant on private cars which, because kids only pay half fare, often ~~didn't~~ stop, leaving them behind and often late for school.

Supporting science education

Primary school children on the coast of St Vincent have a new science lab, opened in 2008 and funded by ~~Fairtrade banana production~~. It includes a laptop and projector, and a range of equipment from world globes to chemistry sets and Bunsen burners.

Refurbishing a local school library

~~The~~ government built a library at North Union School in St Vincent but it had few books in it. At the school's request, the fair trade farmers have filled the library with books using some of the money they ~~have~~ made. They have also provided equipment such as photocopiers to schools in Georgetown.

School Scholarships

The farmers currently provide seven scholarships to gifted children from St Vincent who have done well in their exams but who cannot afford to go to school. All Fair trade farmers are eligible to apply for their children or grandchildren.

Improving farm standards

Fair ~~trade has~~ continued to invest in supporting small-scale banana growers across the islands to meet the health and safety standards required to ensure bananas arrive in the UK in the very best condition. This involves creating clean packing stations, building toilets and ~~lockers~~ for workers, as well as training the farmers and providing them with the best skills for the job. In St ~~Vincent~~ they have built 50 farm packing sheds in the last year alone. It is important for farmers to be ~~certified~~ as without it they can't supply major UK retailers.

Task: make a mind map to show all the benefits that Fair Trade has brought to St Vincent.

Your mind map could be all in words, or you could do labelled drawings to show how the Fair Trade money has been spent. Here's an example to get you started:



Try to include all the information from the sheet in your mind map.