

Your climate your life -Teachers notes

Buying Power: Food

What are food miles?

Learning objectives:

- To understand the environmental impacts of food production
- To develop an understanding of interdependence in food production and consumption

	Activity	Learning	Resources
Starter	Food for thought How many miles does a Christmas dinner travel?	This is a quick activity to introduce the idea that food can come from many different places before it eventually ends up on your plate.	Interactive quiz
Main activity	The travels of a strawberry Find out about strawberry miles	This can be followed up by the travels of a strawberry which can be downloaded for students to discuss the miles it has travelled and any other impacts this has on the environment. This can lead on discussion about energy use in agriculture – is it sustainable to import products which are out of season to meet consumers' demands? How much energy is used to grow produce in greenhouses in the UK?	Download travels of a strawberry

	<p>The journey of a fish</p> <p>Plot the journey of a fish</p>	<p>The journey of a fish requires students to download the map of the UK to plot the journey and calculate miles travelled. The interactive mackerel can be used on a whiteboard to discuss the vast amounts of energy used in the fishing industry.</p>	<p>Download map of the UK</p> <p>Interactive mackerel</p>
<p>Main activity</p>	<p>Where does your food come from?</p>	<p>This could be set as a homework task where students have to calculate the distance their food at home has travelled. This includes the ingredients that make up processed food. Processing food has the most impact because of the energy required in its manufacture.</p>	<p>Download grid</p>
<p>Plenary</p>	<p>Home cooking</p>	<p>A quick activity for students to consider whether food has to be imported or can we eat well using local and seasonal foods.</p>	

What food will we buy?

Learning objectives:

- To consider whether buying locally produced food is a solution
- To understand different opinions and attitudes
- To research opinions and attitudes in the local area

	Activity	Learning	Resources
Starter	Seasonal shopping Identify seasonal fruit and vegetables	This is a quick starter to introduce the concept of seasonal fruit and vegetables. Can the students identify them all correctly?	Download answers
Main Activity	Feeding frenzy A food miles debate	These opinions from a range of people are designed to be sorted into those that favour buying local and those that think this is not a feasible solution. Some of the quotes do not easily fit into either category. The complexities of this issue can be discussed here before students go on to consider what consumers think in their local area.	Download sorting grid

<p>Plenary</p>	<p>Food findings</p> <p>Find out what consumers think</p>	<p>Students can find out what is being done in their local area, is the local council active in favouring farmer's markets? What actions are supermarkets taking? Has learning about the issue made the students more aware of the need to take action individually, in their school or locally?</p> <p>A useful website for schools to calculate their food miles: http://www.carbondetectives.org.uk/content/home/toolkit/foodanddrink</p> <p>Find out more section is a case study from the Co-op Group</p>	<p>Download Co-op case study – the future'</p>
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