



Food and Farming Unit

Lesson 3: Growing food for rich countries in poorer, developing countries – good or bad idea?

Key Ideas:

- An increasingly large percentage of the food that we eat in the UK is grown in poorer, developing countries.
- An increasing number of people in poorer, developing countries struggle to find enough food to eat.

Starter activity: This video clip from [Channel 4 News](#) highlights the fact that the UK is currently dependent on other countries for much of the fruit and vegetables that we eat. Students can watch this short clip and then come up with ideas to answer the question 'Why do we import fruit and vegetables from other countries?'

Main activity:

Although the UK imports farm products from a wide range of countries around the world, an increasing amount of fruit, vegetables and flowers are being imported from poorer, developing countries, particularly in Africa. Whilst students may understand that certain crops cannot be naturally grown in the UK, they will need to develop a much wider understanding of some complex issues if they are to understand why we import crops such as green beans from Kenya when they grow very well in the UK.

Activity 1 – why does Kenya have strong links with the UK? The students can use the ppt (*British Empire.ppt*) to look at the scale of the British Empire and which countries were taken over as colonies (**note:** some colonies retain their original names on the map). A second map shows the dates at which colonies in Africa gained their independence. Why do most former colonies in Africa try to trade with the countries that used to rule them?

Activity 2 – Watch this short video clip [Kenyan beans](#) and think about the green bean 'supply chain' – all the different people involved. Then use the Word documents [KGB-who is interested](#) and [Kenya Fruit Veg Data](#) to try and explain how each person or organisation would feel if Kenya stopped growing green beans for UK Customers.

Plenary:

In the video clip George Alagiah makes the comment that he 'wishes these things were clear cut, but they're not!' as he struggles to make a decision about whether growing beans in Kenya for UK customers is a good thing or a bad thing. Discuss in pairs what you now think and share your ideas with the rest of the class. You might want to take a vote!