

I know what Trade and Fairtrade is and how this impacts on people's lives.

Think about the definitions for trade, its historical meaning and Fairtrade.

Have you ever thought about how trading began?

How do you think people bought and sold things before money was invented?

Here are some historical facts:

Trade routes have popped up throughout ancient history, linking places of production to places of commerce. Scarce commodities that were only available in certain locations/countries such as salt or spices, were the biggest driver of trade networks. Building good roads was needed to help facilitate cultural exchanges.

## I. THE SILK ROAD

The Silk Road is the most famous ancient trade route, linking the major ancient civilizations of China and the Roman Empire. Silk was traded from China to the Roman Empire starting in the first century BC, in exchange for wool, silver, and gold coming from Europe.

The Silk Road also became a vital route for the spread of knowledge, technology, religion, and the arts, with many trading centers along the route, such as Samarkand in modern-day [Uzbekistan](#). (Can you find this on a map?)



Many other major routes became well known for the transport of precious items such as spices and aromatics including frankincense and myrrh.

## 2. SLAVERY

Apart from trading goods, people also traded humans. This was called Slavery. Slavery is a condition in which people are owned or completely controlled by other people. Buying and selling slaves is a trade as old as many of the oldest civilizations including ancient [Egypt](#).- [when the Israelites were enslaved](#). The African slave trade played an important part of world history during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.



### 3. LONDON

The Romans built a city called **Londinium** on the River Thames in AD 43. The name Londinium (and then '**London**') came from the Celtic language of the Ancient Britons.

Soon London became an important **trading city**, for transport of goods. The Port of London has been central to the economy of London and was a major contributor to the growth and success of the city. In the 18th and 19th centuries it was the busiest port in the world.

How can we link **trade to Fairtrade?**

In modern society not all trade is fair. Where you are born may affect how wealthy or poor you are. In many poor countries, people grow crops to make money, however, people will not give them a fair price for the products/items to sell.

There are over 6,000 Fairtrade products available. 4,500 of them are available in the UK. Fairtrade products are sold in over 120 countries.

Disadvantages to trade: Some people believe that international trade is very unfair because they feel it only helps rich people get richer by making poor people poorer.

# So let's recap: What is Fairtrade?

- ✓ A fair price for farmers to continue farming.
- ✓ Protection of the environment.
- ✓ Continued livelihood for rural communities.

- Alliance between producer and consumer
- Price based on production costs
- Payment of social premium for projects
- Long-term contracts

# Price to Fairtrade Growers

This means the Basic price i.e. based on cost of production.

## Social Premium:

Most of the money earned from the price will be spent on community projects

The money will be spent on group projects to improve export capability (e.g. constructing farm roads).





Fairtrade Co-ordinator



Community Building



Nursery Project



Pre-School Reconstruction



Road improvements are vital in order to transport goods.

# Denise is a Fairtrade Farmer who will benefit from the scheme.

Denise (35 years) Lives in on a Caribbean  
Island, Dominica

Her 3 farms -  
1.5, 1 and 0.75 acres

Single

10 year old son

Trained as a secretary

Farmed for 7 years

Only source of income



# Regina is Fairtrade Farmer who will benefit from the scheme.

Regina (43 years)

Lives in South America:

She has 1 farm - 2.5 acres

Single

5 children (16-26)

8 grandchildren

Also grows hot pepper, tania, yam, cabbage and lettuce

Farmed for 23 years

Only source of income



## *Task: 1*

1. Write a definition of what you think trade is — think about its historical roots..
2. How is this linked to Fairtrade?

## *Task 2*

1. Write a paragraph on what the biggest benefits of trade around the world are. Include some of the disadvantages.
2. Do you agree with Fairtrade? Explain why.