

Geography – Year 5 – Where does our food come from?

Topic Overview

In this unit, we look at the distribution of the world's biomes and map food imports from around the world considering their impact on the environment. We learn about trading fairly with a specific focus on Côte d'Ivoire and cocoa beans and identify where the food for our school dinners comes from.

Key Knowledge

A biome is an area with a similar climate, landscape, plants and animals. Biomes dictate the food that can grow naturally. Different foods grow well in different climates.

Food can be imported by boat, aeroplane or train from other countries. The more transport used to import food, the more miles it has travelled and the more fossil fuels are being used. This creates pollution which adds to global warming.

People can create special conditions for products not normally grown in their country, for example, in a greenhouse.

Food choices can impact the environment: land may need to be cleared to grow food causing deforestation; energy needed to raise animals releases gases into the atmosphere; transport causes pollution.

Trading fairly is a process to ensure workers: have a voice; get the best deal for their product; work in safe conditions. Without responsible training, workers may face: low and uncertain wages; poor working conditions; little control over work.

The processes a cocoa bean goes through to become chocolate includes picking, cutting, fermentation, roasting, removing their husks, packaging, grinding, heating, mixing and cooling.

Buying Local Food: fresher and tastier as it's often picked when ripe; Supports UK farmers; less pollution and fewer food miles; UK food rules are stricter than other countries; some foods like bananas or pineapples don't grow in the UK; not all foods are available all year round.

Importing Food: there is more variety from all over the world like tropical fruits and spices; foods that aren't in season locally can be eaten anytime; helps farmers and businesses in other countries; more pollution and increased carbon footprint; less fresh; might put UK farmers out of business.

Important Vocabulary

Food Miles	The distance food travels from where it's grown or made to where it's eaten.
Import	Bring food or goods into the country from another country, often by ship, plane, or lorry.
Export	Send food or goods out of a country to another country to be sold.
Distribution	The way food and goods are delivered from farms or factories to shops and homes.
Waste	Things that are thrown away or not used, like leftover food or packaging.
Consume	To eat, drink, or use something.
Fertiliser	A substance added to soil to help plants grow faster and healthier.
Pesticides	Chemicals sprayed on crops to stop insects and weeds damaging them.
Pollution	Harmful things like smoke, chemicals, or rubbish that make the air, water, or land dirty.
Responsible trade	Trading goods in a way that is fair to workers and kind to the environment.
Sustainability	Using natural resources carefully so they last longer and don't harm the planet.
Source	The place something comes from like the farm where fruit is grown or the factory where clothes are made.
Carbon Footprint	The amount of harmful gases, like carbon dioxide, released into the air by things we do, such as driving or flying.
Seasonal food	Food that grows naturally at a certain time of the year, like strawberries in summer.
Air freight	Sending goods by aeroplane, which is fast but can cause more pollution.
Food bank	A place where people who don't have enough money can get free food to help them.
Allotment	A small piece of land people rent to grow their own fruit, vegetables, and flowers.

Assessment

I can give and explain three ways that our food choices impact the environment.	I can explain responsible trading giving two advantages and disadvantages of importing food.	I can explain the implications of the journey of a chocolate bar.	I can use good interview techniques to research food sourcing.	I can explain two advantages and disadvantages of buying local versus imported food.
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