

# Doing business

## Time

45–60 minutes

## Objectives

- To illustrate the basic principles of global trade.
- To give pupils an understanding of what trade is and how it works.

## Materials

- Enough copies of Activity sheet 1 (sugar pictures) for each group
- Enough copies of Activity sheet 2 (money pictures, for use by 'shippers' only)
- Scissors
- Colour pencils

## Content

- Divide the class into small groups of approx. 4, and give each group a colour. Each group should consist of (approx 3) sugar cane farmers and one 'shipper'. The farmers have worked very hard all year round to grow their sugar cane. The 'shipper' is waiting to collect the sugar cane and transport it to the factories. The shippers will refuse any low standard crops.
- The farmers' task is to empty their pile of stock before it goes off, so they need to hurry! They must cut out the pictures, colour them in their group colour, and bring them to their own shipper. Farmers must cut and colour their crops neatly or else the shipper can refuse to collect them. The teacher should try not to answer any questions. Simply play the game. READY? GO!!!  
Play for 10 minutes.

Reflect:

- Which was the first group to empty its pile of stock?
- Were there any farmers who asked for money? (Do we normally get our food free in the shops?)
- Considering this, who won in the end, the group who was fastest or the group who made the most money?

- Play the same game, but this time the teacher sets a price for the crop brought to the 'shipper' so the 'shipper' will pay the farmers for their crops. (Eg £1 for 8 sugar pictures - reality is approx. £ 30 per ton).

Reflect:

Is it fair if we trade things like this? Why or why not?

Farmers have to work very hard to make some money (compare price they receive for amount of sugar cane as stated above).

Can a farmer buy food and clothes if he/she doesn't get any money for his/her crop?

What else do farmers need money for? (Seeds, machinery, to pay for children's education, etc). Encourage children to come up with as many ideas as possible).

### **Extension**

- What is trade?

Divide the class into pairs and give each pair a piece of paper. Ask them to think of a definition of trade (what is it, who/what is involved). Discuss the different definitions. The teacher can write keywords on the blackboard.

Then look the word 'trade' up in a dictionary and compare this with the children's definitions.

*(Trade/ 1a buying and selling. b buying and selling conducted between nations. c business conducted for profit; The Concise Oxford Dictionary, ninth edition, H.W. Fowler and F.G. Fowler, 1995)*

- Art

Find images of farmers and stick them on the middle of a piece of paper (use images of farmers from all over the world). Children can then draw pictures around the farmer of things he/she needs to buy to grow crops.