

Activity 3: Why did Mrs Camara's stall close down?

(adapted from an activity in *'Lessons in Sustainability'* Tide – Global Learning 2003)

Ages: 11-16

Aims:

- To explore how actions in one part of the world can impact upon the lives of people in other parts of the world.
- To highlight the complexity of cause and effect.
- To develop thinking skills (handling and analysing information, problem-solving).

What you need:

A set of mystery clues for each group of 3 or 4 pupils.

What to do:

This is a 'Mystery' activity. Learners piece together clues written on separate cards to solve a problem. Mysteries are an excellent tool for developing critical thinking skills, and for exploring global interconnectedness.

If desired, this activity can be simplified by removing some of the clues and / or re-phrasing the clues.

The learners' task is to solve a mystery by answering a central question – why did Mrs Camara's stall close down? The cards contain a set of clues, some of which may be more useful than others. Learners work in groups to consider their responses to the question. The task is not simply for learners to solve the mystery by placing the cards in a logical sequence, but also to explain the thinking behind their solutions to the rest of the class. They may omit some cards, and you may provide blank cards for them to write extra points. It may be necessary to provide some form of scaffolding to support this process. When the learners have completed the task a group member feeds back their response to the whole class.



Crispin Hughes - Oxfam

'Mrs Camara sells nuts and oranges to office workers and tourists outside the High Court in Banjul'

Mystery clues: Why has Mrs Camara's stall closed down?

Shafraz is driven to school each day in his parents' car.

Cars produce carbon dioxide when they burn fuel.

Banjul, capital city of the Gambia, is on an island 0.5m above sea level.

Last year's peanut harvest was spoiled by heavy rain.

Banjul is linked to the Gambian mainland by a single highway.

Shafraz's parents say the traffic in Sparkbrook makes it too dangerous to walk or cycle to school.

Global warming is believed to cause extreme weather.

Tourists come to the Gambia for winter sun and sandy beaches.

The Gambia is in West Africa. It is one of ten countries most at risk from sea levels rising.

The High Court is situated on a busy roundabout by the Banjul highway.

Bad storms and rain have been damaging the Banjul highway.

Shafraz lives 2km from his school in Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

Last week, Mrs Camara's stall was flooded for the second time.

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, which adds to global warming.

The morning bus to Shafraz's school is often held up in heavy traffic.

Birmingham's traffic is mostly made up of cars.

Recent stormy weather has made it harder for cars and trucks to come into Banjul.

Sea levels are rising as a result of global warming.

Mrs Camara sells nuts and oranges to office workers and tourists outside the High Court in Banjul.

Mrs Camara's stall has had to close down.

Further Discussion:

Depending on the outcome of the discussion aim to review the following points:

- Is the closure of Mrs Camara's stall anyone's 'fault'? How can we decide who is responsible for this event?
- Which factors originate in the UK and which factors originate in the Gambia? Is it possible to separate factors in this way?
- What solutions are there to prevent events such as this happening in the future? Which solutions should take place in the UK and which solutions should take place in the Gambia?
- Which solutions are the responsibility of individuals and which solutions require intervention by the government or other institutions?
- What is your action plan for supporting people in the position of Mrs Camara? What needs to be done – by whom, with whom, where?
- What can you learn from this activity about the impact of climate change on the world's poor?

One point may require stressing. This exercise personalises 'Shafraz' and 'Mrs Camara' to illustrate global interconnectedness. However Shafraz's actions have **not** individually and directly led to the closure of Mrs Camara's stall. Instead the idea that millions of small actions have the potential to add up to either help or harm is worth making

To support this discussion the students could use the '**Climate change solution cards**'. These cards are suggestions and students should be encouraged to come up with their own ideas. Cards should be sorted by students in groups and according to all or some of the following criteria. Each group should explain how they reached their opinions.

Solutions which....

take place in the UK? (mitigation)

are the responsibility of individuals?

have a long term impact?

have a big impact?

reduce global warming?

take place in the Gambia? (adaptation)

are the responsibility of governments?

have a short term impact?

have a small impact?

don't reduce global warming?

Climate Change Solution cards

Shafraz should walk to school along the quieter back streets.

Birmingham City Council should build bus and cycle lanes so cars don't always have priority.

The UK government should increase road and fuel tax to encourage more people to use public transport.

The UK government should provide subsidies for families who buy electric cars.

Children and families in Birmingham should protest about the amount of traffic in their city.

The UK should join other rich countries in the UN to agree a fair deal for poor countries at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference.

Shafraz, his family and friends should join a campaign teaching people in the UK about how to reduce their carbon emissions.

Mrs Camara should move her stall to another place.

The Gambian government should build a better road to Banjul.

The UN's farming experts should work with Gambian farmers to grow rain-tolerant peanuts.

A charity like Oxfam should help Mrs Camara to train for a new job.

A micro-finance bank should lend Mrs Camara some money to start a new business.

The World Bank should lend the Gambian government money to build a sea wall protecting Banjul from rising sea levels.

The Gambia should join other countries in the UN to demand a fair agreement at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference.