

The Clothes Line

Lesson plan 10: Ways of working

Age group: 7 - 11

Aims:

To help children understand that cotton production processes take place in different working environments.
To develop skills of observation and analysis of evidence.

What to do:

Use all photos from the **photo gallery** (see Power Point), except numbers 1 and 10 for this activity.

Photocopy the **Work Chart** (below) so that you have enough for each group of children to share one. Ask each group to choose a photo and fill in the Work Chart. They should work through a number of photos.

As a class, come back together and discuss some of the differences between working in a factory and working from home. You could use the **worksheet: Fair Trade stories** (below) as stimulus material. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of each?

Curriculum links:

England	Scotland	Wales
Geography: - Analyse evidence and draw conclusions; use secondary sources of information.	Science: - Earth and space - materials from Earth.	Geography: - Analyse evidence and draw conclusions; use secondary sources of information

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Work chart

Look at the photos and fill in the chart below, finding evidence from the photos.

Photo number	Job	In a factory	At home	What is the evidence?

What are some of the differences between working in a factory and working at home?

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Worksheet: Fair Trade stories

Here five different people involved in the garment industry talk about their experiences:

1. Suresh works as a weaver at home in India

"I work as a hand-loom weaver. There is no other work in this area. I start work at 6 in the morning and finish at 9 at night. I get asthma from the dust which comes from the yarn as I weave. I have other health problems because I am sitting down all day. I sell my cloth to a middleman who sells it on to someone else. I know that I get paid a very low price, but I don't know who else to sell my cloth to. My family helps with the work by spinning the cotton and threading the loom with me."

2. Mira works in a factory in India

"I work in a large factory in west India which makes cloth to sell abroad. The pay is good and the women earn the same as men. I work from 7 am to 3.30 pm, with a half hour lunch break and two tea breaks. The work is very noisy, but at least there is plenty of light and air. I get 15 days' paid holiday a year and if I have to work on a festival day I am paid extra. If I am sick I do not lose wages. If I have a baby I will get paid while I take some time off work."

3. Shanti works in a factory in India

"I work in a big factory which makes clothes for export to Britain. I get up at 5 am and do the chores like collecting water, cooking and cleaning before I leave for work. We work from 9 am to 5 pm. During the day we have two short tea breaks and half an hour for lunch. The factory is quite dark and it gets very hot with all the machines. If there is a big order of clothes from Britain, we have to work extra hours. Quite often we work through the night and then the next day. If we refuse, we may lose our job. During these long sessions we are half asleep and accidents can happen when people are tired. When I had my baby I did not get any time off or money. I had to come back straight away. My daughter who is 14 looked after my baby."

4. Chandra works for a small weaving association in India

"A few years ago I joined some other weavers who sell their cloth to a Fair Trade organisation. We get paid a fair price for what we make. It is hard work but I do not have to travel far to work. Besides, I know that the cloth I weave will be bought. This provides me with job security which is important in my family. My husband works as a farm labourer. He has plenty of work during the harvesting season, but at other times he has no work. If it was not for what I earn, we would not be able to feed our four children. With my wages, I can pay for my children to go to school."

5. Karen works at home in the UK sewing collars

"I work at home in Manchester sewing collars for a big firm. I started this work because we needed the money and I could look after the children and work at the same time. I get paid by the number of collars that I make. I work from 7 am to 9 pm to finish enough. Sometimes my pay is late. I work about 36 hours a week and get paid about £46 per week. If I am ill I can't sew so I don't get paid. The mess from the work is a problem. The dust in the air gives me a sore throat and my hands are tired all the time. When the children are at school, I also get very lonely working on my own all day."