

Go Bananas

Lesson plan 1: Question time

Age group: 5 - 11

Aims:

To set up a framework for study which starts from what children themselves want to know.
To motivate children to find out more about growing and trading bananas.
This activity highlights pupils' assumptions, attitudes, and current levels of knowledge - providing a basis for teachers' planning.

What to do:

You will need:

- the photos from the **photo gallery** (see Power Point);
- large sheets of plain paper;
- blutak;
- felt tip pens.

Divide the class into small groups. Give a photo to each group and blutak it to the centre of a large sheet of paper. Ask the groups to write down as many different questions as they can think of about the photo. These should be written on the large sheet of paper with arrows going to the appropriate edge of the photo. Children could take turns to write a question, or one child could act as a scribe for the group.

Discussion points:

Can the questions be put into the following different categories:

- those which are easily answered;
- those which require further information from books or other sources;
- those which have no defined answer, but lead to a wider debate about the issues raised in the picture.

It is important that children understand that there are no clear-cut answers to a lot of questions, and that many answers are based on opinion, although they may sound factual.

Note for teachers:

This activity works best if first demonstrated with the whole class by the teacher.

Extension work:

Ask each group to underline one question that they think they could answer using books and reference sources in the school. The group can work together to decide who will look in which places - the class library, the school library, the internet... The group will also need to decide if they need help from adults, and when they will have access to the resources they want to use. This is a good introduction to independent research skills.

Curriculum links:

England	Scotland	Wales
English: - Group discussion and interaction; listening - respond to others appropriately; reading for information.	English: - Listening in groups; talking in groups; reading for information; functional writing.	English: - Group discussion and interaction; listening - respond to others appropriately; reading for information.