

Go Bananas

Lesson plan 5: Ideas for Literacy/English activities

Age group: 5 - 11

What to do:

You will need the **Caribbean poem: 'Fruits'** (below).

Ideas for using the poem:

Use the poem as a starting point for a collection of poems on a theme. This could support topic work on food, or could support work on the Caribbean.

Make an illustrated class dictionary with the names of fruits featured in the poem. Encourage the children to think about ways of getting more information. Are there local markets which sell Caribbean produce? Are any of these fruit available in local supermarkets?

As a shared writing activity, compose a poem about food inspired by **'Fruits'** (below). Let children choose foods they enjoy -- puddings, ice-cream flavours, cakes, sweets, etc. Start by 'brainstorming' a list of names. Work with pupils to explore the patterns of language in the poem, and create a class poem which uses a similar structure.

Do a survey to find out which of these fruits are available in the UK. Where can you buy them? How much do they cost? Why do you think some are easier to find on sale than others? Do you think that fruits like bananas and mangoes have always been available in the UK? How could you find out?

About the author:

Opal Palmer Adisa grew up in the Caribbean. Her family lived mainly on sugar estates where her father was a chemist working in the sugar refineries, and her mother managed the estate offices. Opal published her first poem at the age of thirteen, and writing has always been part of her life.

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Handout: A Caribbean poem

Fruits

mangoes
and ripe bananas
jelly coconut
and pomegranates
jack-fruit
and stinking-toe
june plum
and nase-berry
sweetsop
and sour-sop
tamarind
and jimbeli
cane-juice
and coolie-plum
star-apple
and custard-apple
navel orange
and wild cherries

fruits everywhere
brimming with life
spread out in front
of market women
buy some
and experience delight

By Opal Palmer Adisa