

RE - lesson plans for non-teachers

FAIR TRADE - a gift to others

Key Stage 1

Ages 5 - 7, Scotland P1 - P2

Year 1 (Unit 1c)

Why do Christians give gifts at Christmas?

Where this lesson will fit into the national curriculum

This lesson is suitable for primary school children aged 5 - 7. It introduces buying fair trade as a thoughtful act to help those living in poverty. Within the National Curriculum this fits into the Religious Education Unit 1c which considers why Christians give gifts at Christmas and what it means to say that a gift is special or precious. The unit goes on to explore the Christian belief that Jesus is God's gift to the world. This would normally be studied in the Autumn term of year 1.

You will need

- Three gift wrapped boxes containing one of the Traidcraft photographs and corresponding Fairtrade products and precious gifts in each

Introduction to the lesson

(10-15 minutes approx)

Show the children your three beautifully wrapped presents and invite their curiosity and engage their attention by asking a few simple questions.

Encourage the children to put up their hands and choose a few of them to answer. You might like to say:

What special celebration are we coming close to? [Christmas]

What kind of things do we do at Christmas? [getting presents is sure to be high on their lists!]

Can you guess what's inside my presents here?

What would you like to be inside?

You could finish by asking the children to talk about his or her 'best present ever' and explain why it was so special to him or her. All the children will want to contribute so allow some time for this.

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Leading the lesson

Explain that your gifts are very 'precious' and ask the children what the word means. Discuss what makes a thing precious. Does it have to be very expensive?

Explain that these precious gifts cost you practically nothing to give. Your gifts are all presents you have given to people you don't know; people who live in other countries.

Open the gifts one by one to reveal the photographs inside, the Fairtrade products and the pictures of clean water, schooling and a home to live in (see 'You will need').

Explain how buying a Fairtrade product has given a precious gift to each of the people in the photographs.

Ask the children to think about the feelings of the people in the photographs. How do they feel when they can drink clean water everyday? What is it like for them to be able to send their children to school? What do they think when they go home to a safe place to live every night? Remind them of your earlier discussion about what makes a gift special or precious. Do these gifts of water, schooling and a home count as 'precious'? Why?

Move on to talk about buying fair trade gifts for others and how they are gifts that 'give twice', because they benefit the fair trade producer as well as the recipient. Talk about the kinds of fair trade gifts that could be given and hold up some examples.

Ask the children to get into groups and give each group a large piece of paper, a Traidcraft catalogue and any other leaflets and pictures you can get hold of. Ask them to make a collage/poster of fair trade gifts and add a sentence or two explaining why fair trade is a good thing. They can split the gifts into categories appropriate for different people if they like.

Thoughts to leave with the children

Remind the children of the positive benefits of fair trade to producers. Ask them what they have learned today. Explain that they can influence their parents/those they shop with to buy more fair trade products and they can request fair trade products themselves. Suggest that, as a class, they collect empty packaging carrying the Fairtrade Mark or from a fair trade company like Traidcraft and make a display to help demonstrate the impact they and their families have had on fair trade producers.

If the school is not already a Fairtrade School or working towards this, leave the teacher with information on how to go about becoming a Fairtrade School and how Traidcraft can help them to get more involved.