



Aim

To understand why developing countries are a disadvantage in world trade

Resources

- A bin
- A tennis ball (or soft ball)
- A football.

General Introduction

Ask students whether they've heard about the England goal in the 2010 World Cup which was over the line but not given. Was that fair? Why wasn't it fair? Who decided not to give the goal? How did they feel when they heard about it?

Can students think of any other examples of unfair happenings in sport? For example in tennis when a ball is "on the line" but given out. Explain that these injustices happen because there are rules for every sport that each team has to follow. In each sport there is someone present to make sure that the rules are followed. In football this is the referee, in tennis it's the umpire. We don't always agree with the officials but we all have to follow the rules.

There are lots of examples of rules in our lives. This could be tidying our rooms, not talking when the teacher is talking or putting our hands up in class and we all get annoyed if someone else gets away with it and we don't!

These are rules which affect us individually. There are also rules which affect countries. Recently you may have heard about countries saying they would all follow rules to help stop climate change. There are similar rules which affect the way in which countries trade with each other (sell their produce in different places).

Illustration

Ask for 6 volunteers and separate them into two teams, a USA team and an Indian team (or equivalent of a developed and developing country). Elicit from both teams an agreement that you are the referee and in charge. They must follow the rules which you set.

Each team has 3 attempts to throw a ball into the rubbish bin. The team with the most “goals” wins.

When the developed country plays make it easier for them to score

- Move the bin nearer to them
- Give them the football to throw with instead of the tennis ball
- Set up wide goalposts instead of the bin

Who wins? Ask each team how they felt during the game. Who worked the hardest? Which team had the advantage? Why was it fair/unfair?

Fair Trade Links

Explain to the students that farmers in developing countries such as India, Chile or Malawi find it far harder to sell their products than farmers in developed countries such as the USA or the UK. They are at a big disadvantage.

Developed countries have more money and can give their farmers money to help them.

Because farmers in developed countries have more money they can sell their produce at a cheaper price. If you saw a tin of tomatoes from Ghana at £2 or a tin of tomatoes from Italy at £1 which would you buy?

Rich countries make the rules through the World Trade Organisation (the “referee” of world trade) so they can make sure that their farmers have a better deal.

Developing countries are in exactly the same position as the team of children which represented them. They work really hard but developed countries (the other team) have lots of advantages which mean that they can do better. It’s really not fair.

Fair trade helps farmers in developing countries to begin to overcome these challenges by making sure that farmers receive a fair price for their goods and receive money from the sale of their goods to help their communities develop.

Fair trade also campaigns for fairer trade laws which mean that developing countries will have the same advantages as developed countries. If time, allow the two teams to play the game again but **without** altering the rules. Who wins this time? Do the students feel that it was fair for both sides?