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Cub Global Issues Activity Badge



Scout World Challenge Award

The activity could also help towards:



Explorers International Activity Badge

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# Fair play

Fairtrade Fortnight, 25 Feb–10 March Help your young people to understand how fair trade works and the difference it makes

**Time:** 60 minutes

## Equipment

- Fairly traded prizes, such as chocolate or bananas
- 'Fair trade zone' sign (download from [scouts.org.uk/fairtradeprintout](http://scouts.org.uk/fairtradeprintout))

## Instructions

**1** Discuss with your section what fair trade means when it appears on foods and other goods, like clothes. Let them know that the Fairtrade Foundation is the most recognisable organisation and logo, but there are many others. Discuss with them that sometimes people are paid low wages and work in poor conditions to produce the items we buy.

**2** Lead your section in a game of tag that will help them understand how fair trade works, that there are companies that want to keep profits high and wages low, and that co-operatives can help workers to get a fairer deal. Co-operatives are jointly owned or run by members, who share the profits and benefits. There are lots of companies that already trade fairly, but not all of them.

**3** Ask the young people to come up with a name for a fictional company that does not use fair trade practices. Most of the section will be 'farmers' while a few will be



'company owners'. Decide who will be the company owners – the number will depend on how many are playing. (e.g. one company owner per 10 workers.)

**4** The farmers will run away from the company owners, and if they get 'tagged' they have to sit down on the floor, which means they have been treated unfairly. Another farmer that is still free can help by joining with them – they do this by standing next to them and putting their hand on the other farmer's shoulder.

**5** Once there are four farmers joined together like this, a 'co-operative' has been formed and the company can no longer force them to work for low wages or in poor conditions. They can now move together (with their hands still on the first farmer's shoulder) to a pre-determined

safe space, protected by being in a 'fair trade zone'.

**6** Distribute prizes to the farmers who make it to safety. Swap who the farmers and company owners are and play again. To help young people understand the impact and context of fair trade, discuss with them that the chocolate industry is at risk and could collapse within five years because of low wages and poor conditions, but choosing fair trade chocolate could help it to survive.

## Take it further

Run a debate about fair trade, sustainable farming and the impact of buying 'local vs global', especially on developing economies. Host a fair trade breakfast. Discuss the UN's Global Goals ([globalgoals.org](http://globalgoals.org)): #8 is Economic Growth and #12 is Responsible Consumption.