



**Friends of
the Earth**

Lesson plan - Food

Curriculum links

Science	Key Stage 1	Unit 1B:	Growing plants
Science	Key Stage 1	Unit 2A:	Health and growth
Science	Key Stage 2	Unit 3A:	Teeth and eating
Geography	Key Stage 2	Unit 18:	Connecting ourselves to the world
Citizenship	Key Stage 2	Unit 5:	Living in a diverse world

Prior learning

Ability to use and interpret globes and atlases.

Points to note

Teachers will need a good understanding of how importing food has consequences for the environment (food miles) and our health (use of pesticides). See www.foe.co.uk/resource/factsheets/food_farming.pdf for information.

Learning objectives

- Plants provide food for humans.
- Different foods need different climates to grow.
- We import our food from all over the world.
- How importing food has consequences for our environment.

Lesson structure

Introduction

- Ask each child to bring in an item of food or a food label with its country of origin.
- Alternatively teacher to supply food / food labels.

Activity

- Each child draws a picture of their chosen food item onto a sticker.
- Each child places their picture on the country of origin on a map of the world.
- The teacher then attaches string from the country of origin to England.

Extension activity

Add a flag with the number of miles between the country of origin and England.

Discuss the map:

- Which produce has travelled the furthest? Have any come from England?
- Which foods could have been grown in England e.g. apples, potatoes, tomatoes
- Which have to be grown abroad e.g. bananas, pineapples etc.

- Discuss why we can't grow bananas in England (not the right climate, too cold)

Plenary

Discuss why it is better for us and the environment to use locally produced food e.g. UK apples (see food miles and chemicals sections in our *Mad about food* leaflet).

Questions to consider:

- How is food transported to us from different countries?
- How does the food stay fresh when it travels so far?
- Why is it better for us and the environment to get food from local places?
- Why don't we eat more food from local sources?
- What can we do to improve it?
- How would our farmers feel if we kept getting our food elsewhere?
- What would happen to their crops?

Resources

Mad about food leaflet

Map of the world

Blank white stickers

Colouring pencils/pens

Scissors

String

Drawing pins

Useful web addresses:

www.foe.co.uk/learning/news/food_for_thought.html

www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real_food/index.html

Key words/vocabulary

Food miles

Pesticides

Organic

Risky chemicals

Success criteria

Children will have produced a map of the world showing where different food comes from and how far it has travelled to get to their plates. They will have discussed why it is better to source food as locally as possible.

