Key Knowledge

What is Fair Trade?

The Fair Trade movement is a global organisation committed to helping producers/farmers in developing communities. Money raised from Fair Trade products, such as tea, bananas, coffee and chocolate, goes towards improving the working conditions, local sustainability and trade terms for farmers and workers, and their communities. Farmers get a guaranteed and fair price for their product

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Marco Polo, the most famous traveller along the Silk Road (the picture below shows the route), was an Italian merchant and explorer. He who was born and brought up in Venice. In 1271-at the age of 17-he set out with his father and uncle along the Silk Road on an epic journey to China, returning 24 years later with many riches and treasures.



Key Facts:

For thousands of years people around the world have traded goods between countries, which is called International trade.

Silk Road was an ancient network of trade routes across Asia. The European explorer, Marco Polo travelled along these routes in the 13th century.

Fair trade is the trade between companies in developed countries and producers in developing countries in which fair prices are paid

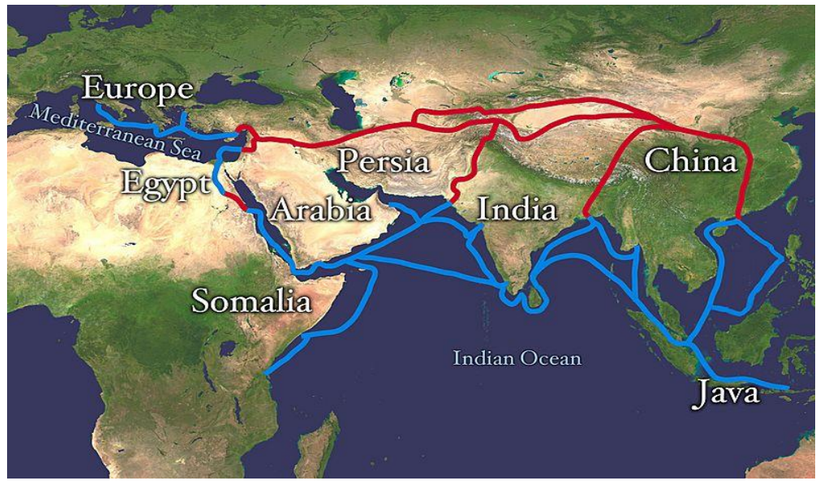
The Fairtrade foundation makes sure that all their products come from farms and factories with fair working conditions. Many products, including coffee, sugar, tea, cotton, wine, bananas, and handicrafts, are traded this way and are labelled to show they are fair trade.

66% of the producers of fair trade products have to be small scale, family run farms to ensure fair wages.



Timeline

130 B.C-1439 A.D	The Silk Road is a major centre for international trade, travel and residence
1271	Marco Polo took the journey to the Silk Road (he spent 24 years there).
1510	The start of the systematic transportation of slaves to the New World.
1846	Britain decides to adopt a policy of free trade(it made it easier to import and export)
1830-1870	Trade flowed between countries. Inventions such as the steamship and the telegraph changed the way trade happened.
1890-1914	The British Empire was at its peak for trading.
1913-1945	International trade hugely decreased due to World War I and II.
1992	Fairtrade Foundation established.
1994	First Fairtrade products in shops.
2000	First Fairtrade bananas in the UK are launched.
2009	Cadbury goes Fairtrade in the UK
Present day	Global Fairtrade sales have soared over the past decade due to product selling and countries getting involved.



Key Vocabulary

Consumers: A person who buys and uses up goods

Economic: Relating to trade, industry, and money of a country.

Exports: Items that are made in a country and sold to people in other countries.

Fairtrade: A way of buying and selling products that makes certain that the people who produce the goods receive a fair price and fair condition.

Globalization: The increase of trade around the world, especially by large companies producing and trading goods in many different countries.

Infrastructure: The services, such as transport and power supplies, that a country or organisation uses in order to work effectively.

Import: A product brought in from another country.

International Trade: The exchange of capital, goods, and services across international borders.

Raw Materials: The basic material from which a product is made.

Product: A substance that is manufactured or refined for sale.

Trade: The action of buying and selling goods and services

Transnational corporation (TNC): A large company that does business in several countries. Many TNCs are much richer than entire countries in the less developed world.

Learning at Home Tasks

Have a look at the Fairtrade website for more information about the History of this foundation https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/What-is-Fairtrade/The-impact-of-our-work/The-History-of-Fairtrade

- Watch this video that looks at the bananas and why it is important to fairly trade products like this https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/26364580
- Learn about Marco Polo, the Italian merchant, who travelled Asia to become one of the earliest European explorers to learn about its culture and people https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C88P-SCEKsw