



Why is Fair trade FAIR?

Key Facts

People using The Silk Road during the Middle Ages (the period between 1000 and 1453) were *merchants* – someone who buys and sells commodities for profit. The main commodity being carried on the camels was very precious and extremely valuable – silk.

In central Asia the Silk Road divides into two because of the Tarim Basin. A basin is a large bowl-shaped dip in the earth's surface often oval or circular in shape. At 906 000 sq. km, the Tarim Basin is nearly four times larger in area than the United Kingdom.

Marco Polo was the largest container ship in the world when it was launched in 2012 – it is 396 m in length, which is the size of four football pitches. Every 11 weeks it arrives at the port of Southampton carrying 16 020 containers full of commodities that the United Kingdom is *importing* from China.

Britain spends more than US\$1.5 billion a year on products from China. Britain also exports significant amounts to China.

Pineapples, oranges, satsumas, bananas, cocoa (raw material of chocolate), rice, coffee, tea, sugar, kiwi, grapefruit, lemons, melons, peaches have to be imported because we don't have the appropriate climate to grow them.

Fairtrade-certified farmers are guaranteed a minimum price for their crop at the beginning of each year so they know what they are going to earn in advance of doing the work.

Fairtrade farmers will receive a Fairtrade premium (a little extra money) for each box of bananas which goes into a fund to develop the community.

Fairtrade farmers are able to set up co-operatives



Vocabulary

Abroad - in or to a foreign country or countries.

International - means between or involving different countries.

Manufacture - means to make something in a factory, usually in large quantities.

Exports - goods (visible exports) or services (invisible exports) sold to a foreign country or countries

Imports - to buy products from another country for use in your own country.

Commodity - something of use, advantage, or profit

Merchant - is a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities, especially one who imports and exports them.

Domestic political activities, events, and situations happen or exist within one particular country. Container ship

Co-operative - is a business or organization run by the people who work for it, or owned by the people who use it. These people share its benefits and profits.

Market - The market for a particular type of thing is the number of people who want to buy it, or the area of the world in which it is sold.

Sustainable - the use of natural resources when this use is kept at a steady level that is not likely to damage the environment.

Ethical - means relating to beliefs about right and wrong.

