



# Fair Trade Lesson Plans

Use these lesson plans to bring Fair Trade into your classroom

**Bring Fair Trade into your classroom with Lesson Plans from Fair Trade Campaigns!**

Fair Trade Campaigns, in conjunction with the education consulting firm **Creative Change**, developed a set of four lessons plans that explore four different issue areas in relation to Fair Trade - global economics, gender equity, child labor, and environmental sustainability.

**Changing the Rules of the Global Economy: An Introduction to Fair Trade**

**Gender Equity and Fair Trade**

**Environmental Sustainability and Fair Trade**

**Child Labor and Fair Trade**

The lessons come with an accompanying **Educator's Guide**, which provides background information for teachers and guidance on effective instructional strategies.

These are differentiated lesson plans for grades 6-12, which are aligned with common core standards in English and Language Arts and are applicable for a variety of subject areas. Teachers have used the lessons in subjects ranging from English and Social Studies, to Biology, Environmental Science, and Business.

"We recently became a designated Fair Trade School, so I felt it was important for all of us to be more familiar with Fair Trade in general."

Denise Pippin  
Sixth Grade Social Studies  
St Martin of Tours Academy

Learn more and download the free resources here: <http://bit.ly/FTLessons>

## About the Fair Trade Campaigns Lesson Plans

### An Educator's Guide to Fair Trade

This document is a guide to accompany a curriculum series on Fair Trade designed for grades 6-12. The series offers teachers four collections of differentiated lessons for use in economics, geography, language arts, or social studies courses. Each collection is provided in a single document that contains Teacher Notes followed by complete student materials for all activities. The Educator's Guide includes a comparison of Free Trade versus Fair Trade, a master vocabulary list, a master resource list, and resources on effective instructional strategies.

### Changing the Rules of the Global Economy: An Introduction to Fair Trade

This foundational lesson introduces the basic values and 'operating rules' of two approaches to global trade: the dominant model, characterized by winner-take-all competition to increase profits and lower costs, and Fair Trade, characterized by win-win strategies that benefit consumers, businesses, workers, and communities.

**Guiding Questions:** How do our values impact our consumer decisions? What are some of the rules and practices of global trade? Who and what are impacted by global trade? How can Fair Trade principles impact people, communities, and the environment? What can consumers do?

### Gender Equity and Fair Trade

This lesson focuses on the relationship among gender, education, and economic opportunities. This requires that students have an understanding of key concepts including gender, sex (i.e., boy/girl), equity, and equality. Students must also understand that improving outcomes and rights for girls and women does not mean reducing outcomes and opportunities for boys and men.

**Guiding Questions:** What does 'gender' mean and how can it impact the opportunities you have? What are common gender-based barriers and opportunities in terms of education and work? How can improving opportunities for girls and women benefit boys and men? What can consumers do?

### Environmental Sustainability and Fair Trade

Students should have a basic understanding of environmental concepts including ecosystems, biodiversity, and water quality. The lesson explores how the environment is impacted by coffee production, and how specific growing practices can lessen the impact and benefit the community.

**Guiding Questions:** Where do things I use each day come from? Where does my waste go? How is coffee grown, and what are the environmental impacts? How does the Fair Trade model for growing coffee affect farmers, the community, and the environment? How do I know if claims about food products are true?

### Child Labor and Fair Trade

It's not uncommon for children to 'work'. Chores, babysitting, helping on family farms, restaurant jobs, and paper routes may all be considered work. In contrast is 'child labor,' defined by the International Labor Organization as "work that children should not be doing because they are too young to work, or – if they are old enough to work – because it is dangerous or otherwise unsuitable for them."

**Guiding Questions:** How do you define 'work'? What are the different types of work children perform in different parts of the world? How can we differentiate between work that helps children, families, and communities, and work that is dangerous or otherwise harmful? Why do some children work in dangerous and harmful conditions?

All lessons are available for free download at <http://bit.ly/FTLessons>