

Fairtrade assembly



About this assembly

This assembly is on the theme of Fairtrade. By introducing some of the people who produce the products we use everyday, this assembly helps children to recognise the availability of Fairtrade goods and think about why we should choose to shop fairly.

The assembly includes a sketch set in a supermarket and introduces ***Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred***, a Fairtrade 'superhero' who talks about the brilliant ways that we can help to make the lives of producers and workers in the developing world better through the purchase of Fairtrade products.

The assembly can be used as part of Fairtrade Fortnight (February 22nd – March 7th 2010) or at any other time to promote the availability and range of Fairtrade. The theme for Fairtrade Fortnight 2010 is ***The Big Swap***, and encourages people to swap their normal purchases for Fairtrade alternatives where possible. The assembly makes references to this theme, but is broad enough to be used at any time.

You will need:

Costumes and Props

Fred should be dressed in appropriate superhero clothing – ideally wearing a Fairtrade t-shirt with Fairtrade boxer shorts worn over trousers / leggings / tights. Fred wears the Fairtrade mark on the t-shirt and an eye mask. He can also wear a cape and wig: use your imagination!

All other 'shoppers' can be dressed in any casual clothing.

You'll need a selection of items that you can buy in a supermarket – a mixture of Fairtrade and non- Fairtrade versions, such as sugar, coffee, tea, honey, spices, cotton wool, chocolate, flowers and so on. See what is available in local stores. These should be displayed on a table or shelf unit. If you can, use a shopping basket or trolley. You'll also need a couple of shopping bags.

Sketch: Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred

The main area is set up with a table or set of shelves with a selection of supermarket items. A number of shoppers browse through the items on the table. Some pick up items, look at them and put them in their shopping bags or baskets.

Narrator 1 It was an ordinary supermarket on an ordinary day and people are going about their ordinary shopping for their ordinary dinner. When suddenly, something extraordinary happened...

Narrator 2 *(excitedly)* Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's...

Fred enters dramatically from the side

Fred Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred!

All the shoppers look amazed and thrilled. They cheer wildly.

Narrator 1 Protecting the rights of workers across the world, Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred is a shoppers' champion.

Narrator 2 Are workers being treated fairly? Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred will make sure they are!

Narrator 1 Are food producers being paid a fair amount for the goods they grow? Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred will protect them!

Narrator 2 Are the people of Britain able to shop more fairly? Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred will help you to make the choice!

Narrator Let's see Fred in action.

Shopper 1 looks at a shopping list and begins to browse through the food on display.

Shopper 1 Now, I need to make that delicious chocolate cake for Bert's birthday. What do I need...?

As (s)he goes through the list, (s)he picks up the non-Fairtrade versions of each food.

Hmm, flour, yes, that will do..
Sugar... that looks about right.
Butter and eggs – no I've already got those at home.
Chocolate? Yes, here it is.

Fred *Interrupting*

Stoppoooooooooooo!

Shopper 1 What is it, Fred?

Fred Are you sure you've chosen the right things there?

Shopper 1 Well, flour, sugar, chocolate... yes, I think so, Fred.

Fred Well, what about these?

He picks up the Fairtrade varieties

Fred Lovely Fairtrade flour – self-raising! Deliciously sweet Fairtrade sugar. Gorgeously gooey Fairtrade chocolate – my favourite!

Gazing at the bar of chocolate, he says

Stand back – you're about to see something very special!

Fred eats the entire bar of chocolate, then speaks with his mouth full

Delicious!

Shopper 1 Er, that's lovely, Fred and all very well but aren't all these Fairtrade things a bit more expensive? I'm not sure I can really afford them.

Fred Well, shopper, it can be true that you pay a little bit more. But it means that the people who grow and produce these items get paid a fairer amount of money. So you can feel a lot better about the things you buy. That chocolate cake will taste so much better if it's fairer!

Shopper 1 I suppose that's true... Yes! Our Bert will love his Fairtrade cake!

(S)he puts the Fairtrade items in the basket and moves on

Fred Another successful mission for Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred.

Narrator 1 A Fairtrade cake – sounds a good plan. Perhaps you could make one for your next family birthday?

Narrator 2 Meanwhile, back in the supermarket, another shopper is choosing a healthier option.

Shopper 2 browses through the fresh produce on display, again choosing the non-Fairtrade versions

Shopper 2 Now, how about a lovely fruit salad... Hmm, bananas, yes they'll be tasty. Pineapples – ooh, lovely mangoes, grapes... these look really tasty.

Fred *(Interrupting)* Stopppppppppp!

Shopper 2 *(Looking shocked)* What is it, Fred?!

Fred Have you thought about how these fruits got here?

Shopper 2 Er, by lorry?

Fred No! *(Pauses to think)* Well, yes... but before that. Who planted the seeds? Who grew and nurtured the fruits? Who helped to pick them and pack them?

Shopper 2 Er... I don't know, Fred.

Fred Exactly! So choose these delicious Fairtrade fruits instead – you can find out about who has produced them.

Fred picks up a bunch of bananas

Fred Take these bananas, for example. They were grown by Regina in the Windward Islands. She sells all her bananas on Fairtrade terms which means she can afford to pay her bills and send her children to school.

Shopper 2 Lucky them!

- Fred** Exactly! You can buy loads of Fairtrade fruit these days. Not just bananas but mangoes, grapes, oranges... plenty of choice for a fabulously fantastic Fairtrade fruit salad!
- Shopper 2** I bet it tastes a lot better, too, hey Fred?
- Fred** Absolutely! There's nothing like enjoying your five a day knowing that you've helped a farmer feed her family.
- (S)he puts the Fairtrade items in the basket and moves on*
- Fred** Another successful mission for Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred.
- Narrator 1** You can find a wide variety of Fairtrade fruits – why not see if you can enjoy a different Fairtrade fruit each day this week?
- Narrator 2** It looks like Fred is about to help another shopper!
- Shopper 3 (a girl) looks through different varieties of teas and coffees in a confused way*
- Shopper 3** Decaffeinated... Green leaf... lap sang souchong... Macchiato. It's just so confusing! Where can I find a decent cup of tea or coffee?!
- Fred** *(Leaping into action)* Have no fear! Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred is here!
- Shopper 3** It's amazing! I've heard so much about you! Can you help me?
- Fred** Of course, that's what I'm here for. Choosing a lovely hot drink? It doesn't matter if it's a skinny cappuccino or a steaming mug of tea with two sugars, as long as you choose Fairtrade, you can't go wrong!
- Shopper 3** But how do I know if my cuppa is fair?
- Fred** It's simple! *(He points to the logo on his chest)* Just look for the Fairtrade logo! It's your guarantee that the farmers and producers of the food are given a fair wage for their work.
- Shopper 3** That's incredible!
- Fred** And it's the same on lots of other things, too: honey, cocoa, flowers, dried fruits, spices, even things like cotton wool and t-shirts. Fancy a lovely biscuit with your brew?
- Shopper 3** Why not?
- Fred** *(Picking up some Fairtrade biscuits)* Try these!
- Shopper 3** *(Taking the biscuits)* Fred, that's brilliant! Thank you!
- Fred** Don't thank me, it's what I do.
- Shopper 3** *Looks closely at Fred*
- Er... Fred?
- Fred** Yes?
- Shopper 3** Is that your real name?

- Fred** *Sounding a little nervous*
Er, yes, of course.
- Shopper 3** It's just that you seem a bit familiar, that's all.
- Fred** *Squirming a little*
No, no, I've never met you before, Madam.
- Shopper 3** *Gently takes off Fred's eye mask and sounds slightly despairing*
Johnny! *(Use the pupil's real name!)* What have I told you about dressing up as a superhero?
- Fred** *Sheepishly*
Sorry, mum...
- Narrator 1** And so, in shops across the country, Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred - er, I mean, Johnny *(again, use the pupil's real name)* carries out his mission, changing people's lives with the things they choose to buy.
- Narrator 2** And you, too, can make the change. Be a Fairtrade Superhero and join in The Big Swap by choosing to buy Fairtrade goods whenever you get the choice.
- Narrator 1** Encourage whoever does the shopping at home to look out for Fairtrade products.
- Narrator 2** And think about the people who help to put all the products we enjoy every day on our supermarket shelves.

Prayer and Reflection

- Reader 1** One of the psalms describes the earth like this:

'The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord;
the earth and who live on it are his.' (Psalm 24:1)
- Reader 2** And that reminds us why choosing to make the Big Swap to Fairtrade is important.
- Reader 3** Everything in the world belongs to God, but sadly not everyone remembers this.
- Reader 4** Sometimes people who run businesses forget that they have to care for God's world and God's people. Sometimes the desire to make money makes people forget that they should still be fair.
- Reader 5** That's why CAFOD and many other charities helped to form the Fairtrade Foundation back in 1992.
- Reader 6** By giving those who make and produce food, cotton and other products fair pay, the Fairtrade Foundation helps to protect people's lives and gives them a better future.
- Reader 7** So choosing a fairly traded banana or bar of chocolate might not seem to make much of a difference.
- Reader 8** But it's actually a really good way of helping others.

- Reader 9** Fabulously Fantastic Fairtrade Fred reminds us that swapping to Fairtrade is a good choice – but also a really easy one!
- Reader 10** And if we all do it, then we become superheroes too!
- Reader 11** Let us pray.

Dear God,

We pray for those people around the world who grow and produce the things we eat and buy.

We pray that they get a fair price for the things we buy from them.

We pray that we can help support these people by buying Fairtrade goods so that we can help create a better and more just world.

Amen

Extension activity ideas

You could follow the Assembly by celebrating Fairtrade in one of the following ways. These can be particularly successful during Fairtrade Fortnight, but can also be used at other times of the year too.

- Play the Fairtrade quiz and the Banana split game at <http://www.cafod.org.uk/primary/fairtrade>
- Hold a Fairtrade stall in school – a good way to encourage parents and carers to find out more too! If the local parish has a Fairtrade stall, why not link up with them?
- Challenge children to spot as many different Fairtrade products as possible in the local supermarket – offer a prize to whoever finds the most.
- Make some Fairtrade cakes or biscuits in class – you could sell them as a fundraising activity.
- Check out the possibility of using Fairtrade products in the school kitchen – this could be a good research project for older pupils.
- Explore the possibility of being a Fairtrade school and parish. How can the community get involved in the Big Swap and change to Fairtrade products where possible?
- Find out how to become a Fairtrade school at <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/>