

Banana Globingo

Find someone who ...

Instructions

- You must find a different person for each box
- Get them to answer the question and sign the appropriate box
- Fill in as many boxes as you can in the time
- If you fill in all the boxes find the workshop facilitator

1. Can name 3 countries where bananas are grown
2. Can name 2 of the 5 large banana companies that control more than 80% of world trade in bananas
3. can guess how long a first class banana is according to the EU
4. Knows whether the people involved in producing bananas for export mostly work on
 - a. large commercial, mechanised plantations which export nearly all of their bananas
 - b. small, family-owned farms
5. Knows whether banana workers on big plantations are usually contracted for
 - a. life
 - b. during the summer season when bananas are ripe for the picking
 - c. short-term contracts of 3-6 months
6. Can estimate roughly what percentage of the price of a conventional banana one of the large British supermarkets usually takes
7. Can estimate how much a Nicaraguan banana worker takes home for a basic 8 hour day
8. Has bought Fairtrade bananas recently

<p>1. Bananas are grown in</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>Name:</p>	<p>2. Two big banana companies are:</p> <p>Name:</p>	<p>3. A first class banana according to the EU is at least</p> <p>.....cm</p> <p>Name:</p>
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<p>4. Most people who work in the banana industry work on</p> <p>a. large plantations</p> <p>b. small family farms</p> <p>Name:</p>	<p>5. A banana worker's contract is usually</p> <p>a. for life</p> <p>b. in the summer</p> <p>c. short-term (3-6 months)</p> <p>Name:</p>	<p>6. A supermarket can take more than</p> <p>.....%</p> <p>of the price of a banana</p> <p>Name:</p>
<p>7. A Nicaraguan banana worker takes home</p> <p>US\$</p> <p>for a basic 8 hour day</p> <p>Name:</p>	<p>8. I've bought Fairtrade bananas recently in</p> <p>(which supermarket)</p> <p>Name:</p>	

ANSWERS

1. **3 countries where bananas are grown:**
 Countries of the tropics - Africa, Latin America, Caribbean, Pacific etc - grow bananas. The important issue is that many, many countries produce bananas as a staple food, but that only around 20% of all bananas that are produced are actually exported.

Countries of export (the following lists are not comprehensive lists):
 - Latin America: Ecuador, Costa Rica and Colombia export the most bananas in the world. Other Latin American exporting countries - Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, Panama, Nicaragua, Suriname
 - Caribbean: Windward Islands (St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, Dominica), Jamaica, Dominican Republic
 - European supplying countries - ie that are part of the EU so don't actually 'import' bananas, although their bananas are traded within the EU: Martinique (France), Guadeloupe (France), Canary Islands, Greece, Portugal
 - African: Ghana (Fairtrade plantation only), Cameroon, Ivory Coast

2. **5 large banana companies that control more than 80% of world trade in bananas:**
 Dole (US based): 25%
 Chiquita (US based): 25%
 Del Monte (US based): 16%
 Noboa (Ecuador): 11%
 Fyffes (Ireland): 8%

3. **How long a first class banana is according to the EU?**
 Minimum of 14 cms and with less than 1cm² of marks on the skin - but do you care? Most supermarkets have much higher quality standards than the EU, and its apparently because

consumers want perfect-looking fruit and vegetables. The consequences though are that there is more waste and more intensive production methods used in a bid to achieve cosmetic quality perfection throughout the whole crop. And the fruit inside a banana can be perfect whether there are marks on the skin or not. Despite this, if there are many 'quality' problems with a box of bananas, the farmer or plantation owner who has supplied this fruit (this can be recognised through the codes on each box of bananas) will be told that there are problems, and may even lose the contract.

- 4. Do the people involved in producing bananas for export mostly work on large commercial, mechanised plantations that export nearly all of their bananas or small, family-owned farms?**
Most bananas are grown on the large-scale, monoculture plantations in Latin America. In the Caribbean it is mainly small family owned farms
- 5. Are banana workers on big plantations usually contracted for life, during the summer season when bananas are ripe for the picking or on short-term contracts of 3-6 months?**
Most banana workers on the big plantations are on short-term contracts. This means that workers have fewer rights than permanent workers, and often lower wages etc. (Bananas are not seasonal really, so 'during the summer season' is a red-herring!)
- 9. What percentage of the price of a conventional banana one of the large British supermarkets usually takes?**
Around 30 to 40% whilst a worker can take less than 2%.
- 10. How much does a Nicaraguan banana worker take home for a basic 8 hour day?**
Around US\$1.20 - about 75pence. This is about one-third the estimated value of a basic food-basket in Nicaragua.
- 11. Where can you buy Fairtrade bananas?**
By the end of 2002, Waitrose, Sainsbury, Safeway, Asda, Tesco, Out of this World and Co-op (who were the first to launch in January 2000) all sold Fairtrade bananas in at least some of their stores in Britain.

For more information, contact Banana Link, 38 Exchange Street, Norwich, NR2 1AX, UK
Tel: 01603 765670 Fax: 01603 761645 Email: blink@gn.apc.org Website:
www.bananalink.org.uk
Not-for-profit company number:3144239

Working for Sustainability in the Banana Industry