

Researching information  
for DEBATE writing

LEARN AT CHESTER ZOO

# What is the debate about?

L.O.: To research information for a debate.

- Can you remember the motion for the debate that you will be carrying out?
- ‘This house believes that palm oil plantations should be sustainable.’
- What is meant by sustainable and unsustainable palm oil?

# What is deforestation?

L.O.: To research information for a debate.

## Success Criteria:

I can:

- annotate and label information to support my argument.
- make notes to support my argument.
- include evidence and examples, where possible to support my argument.
- include arguments that you can refute (prove wrong).

# Reading the information

L.O.: To research information for a debate.

- Read through the documents you have been given carefully.
- You will need to collate (collect) information to support your side of the argument, but in your role.
- Decide individually or in pairs whether the document has points that will be useful for planning an argument in favour of sustainable or unsustainable palm oil. N.B. Can the documents be used for either argument?

CHESTER ZOO **What IS PALM OIL?** SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL CHALLENGE

Palm oil comes from the **FRUIT AND SEED** of the **oil palm plant**, native to **West Africa**.

Palm oil is the **WORLD'S MOST** commonly used **vegetable oil**.

Palm oil can be found in over **50%** of products on supermarket shelves.

**85%** of PALM OIL is grown in **Indonesia and Malaysia**.

Join Chester Zoo's **#PalmOilChallenge** - find out more and how you can get involved, here: **CHESTERZOO.ORG/PALMOIL**

CHESTER ZOO **What's GOOD about PALM OIL?** SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL CHALLENGE

Growing oil palm trees is the most **efficient use** of land for producing oil - it produces **twice as much** as coconut trees and over **thirty times** as much as maize.

It can be **ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY** if it is *grown sustainably!*

It's **VERSATILE**, **CHEAP** and **EFFICIENT!**

It's an **IMPORTANT PART OF THE ECONOMY** in countries such as **Indonesia and Malaysia**.

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CHESTER ZOO **What's BAD about palm oil?** SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL CHALLENGE

Vast areas of rainforest - once home to **orangutans, tigers, elephants and rhinos** - have been cleared to make way **FOR OIL PALM TREES**.

Oil palm plantations cannot sustain the **native wildlife** - as a result, **ANIMAL NUMBERS** are falling fast.

**DEMAND IS INCREASING** and the industry is growing and spreading to other countries - including the **Philippines, Nigeria and those in South America**.

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# Collating the information

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- You may need to **highlight** or underline relevant information that supports your side of the argument, (in your role) before writing down your notes. You may wish to annotate the information also, to summarise the main points.

*EXAMPLES* are on the **slides** that follow. ↩

- Your teacher will model how to do this in a specific role that favours sustainable palm oil production.
- You should then write bullet points to support your side of the argument, on paper, using your annotations, labelling and highlighting to help you.

# How might labelling and annotations help with your ideas?

L.O.: To research information for a debate.

**CHESTER ZOO** *what is* **PALM OIL?**

Palm oil comes from the **FRUIT AND SEED** of the **oil palm plant**, native to *West Africa*

*fruit and seed*

**Palm oil** is the **WORLD'S MOST** commonly used *vegetable oil*

**PALM OIL** can be found in over **50%** of products on *supermarket shelves*

**85%** of **PALM OIL** is grown in *Indonesia and Malaysia*

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**SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL CHALLENGE**

Introduction?

It's too late to turn back the clock – we need to ensure sustainable production.

# Look for the main points

L.O.: To research information for a debate.

Rainforest destruction affects the home of animals

Animal numbers decrease

**CHESTER ZOO** What's **BAD** about palm oil?

Vast areas of rainforest - once home to orangutans, tigers, elephants and rhinos - have been cleared to make way **FOR OIL PALM TREES**.

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SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL CHALLENGE

# Modelling highlighting

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Information is taken from Chester Zoo resources: 'Summary of Sustainable Palm Oil'

**Read through the extract, decide which side of the argument it gives at this point and highlight the main points, before making notes.**

- Palm oil production has had a lot of negative press because in recent years it has predominantly been grown in the areas where rainforests would have been. The palm oil and palm kernel oil is harvested from the palm fruit and nuts of oil palm trees that are grown in deforested areas of the rainforest.
- These rainforests were the homes for wildlife such as orangutans who eat many varieties of different fruits, vegetables, leaves, bark, flowers and insects. Unsustainable Oil palm tree plantations have drastically reduced the variety of food available, due to the removal of the forest or land to create farmland for oil palm trees.
- In a rainforest, the forest trees would create a canopy layer over the river tributaries running through the forest. This means you would get an area of forest, then the river and then area of forest. Animals like the orangutans, monkeys and sun bears could transfer from one area of forest to the other by crossing through the canopy layer using the layer as a 'bridge'. However, as hardwood tree farming and palm oil production has grown, the trees are too young and therefore too short to be able to form a canopy bridge for the animals to cross over rivers.
- In addition, if there is only a palm oil plantation on the other side of the river there is little point in the animals crossing in the first instance due to the reduced biodiversity. One of the main reasons for this is that oil palm plantations are planted as a monoculture, so unlike many other plants/crops they are not grown with other plants or trees around them. The result of this farming approach is that when forest or land is cleared to produce palm oil, nothing other than oil palm is planted in that area so it drastically reduces the area available for wildlife, the biodiversity of the area and the sources of food for the wildlife.

## Main activity

L.O.: To research information for a debate.

\*All children should label and annotate the information sheets. Children are to work in pairs (unless your teacher tells you otherwise).

\*\*/ \*\*\*Written notes in bullet points should occur. You will need evidence and examples, wherever possible.

\*\*\*Include arguments that you can refute (prove wrong). Some to work individually.

# What have you achieved?

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## Plenary

### Success Criteria:

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- make notes to support my argument.
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- Review the learning objective and success criteria.
- What do you think you will need to do next, to prepare for the debate?