

Researching information
about sustainable palm oil

LEARN AT **CHESTERZOO**

What do you know about palm oil?

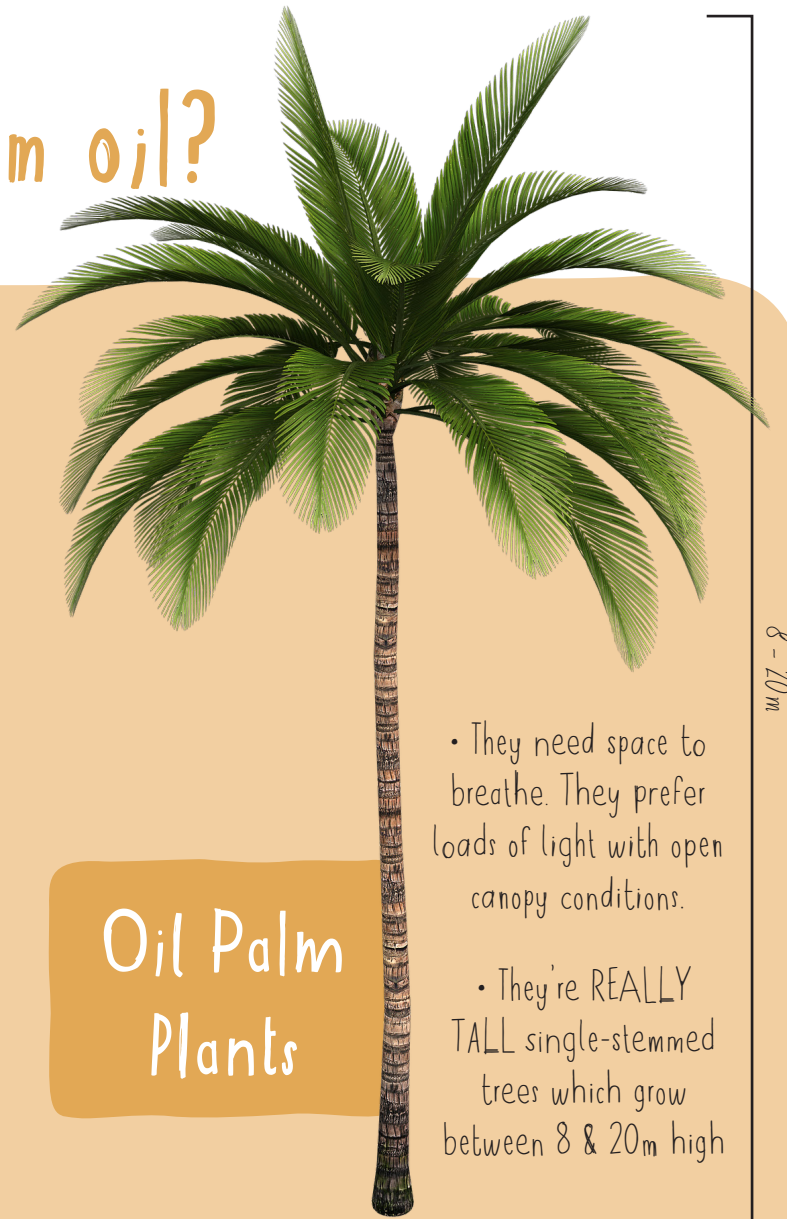


Palm oil is the most commonly used vegetable oil

85% of palm oil is grown in Indonesia and Malaysia

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

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



8 - 20m

Oil Palm Plants

- They need space to breathe. They prefer loads of light with open canopy conditions.

- They're REALLY TALL single-stemmed trees which grow between 8 & 20m high

- They have a stem diameter of as much as 0.5m

Why are people against the use of palm oil in products?

Rainforests are DESTROYED to grow it

They're often cut down to make way for **unsustainable** oil palm plantations.

Animals *lose their habitat* and POACHERS have easier access to their homes.



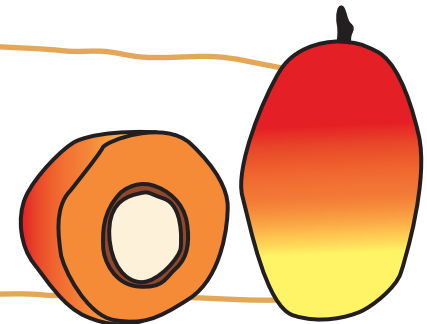
It affects local people

They experience poor *human rights* and land disputes. And removing forests for **unsustainable** oil palm plantations can cause flooding. This **DAMAGES** crops and people's homes, causing **social conflict**.



It THREATENS many species

Unsustainably grown oil palm plantations have *very little plant diversity*. Animals like orangutans can't survive by only eating oil palm fruit. Forcing them to **move away** to find rapidly shrinking suitable habitat to live in.



How have people reacted?

Understandably, people who care about the environment, wildlife and biodiversity have been outraged:

We shouldn't use products with palm oil! Palm oil production has led to so much destruction!

We must use alternative products!

Palm oil is reducing animal and plant life diversity

It is increasing climate change!!

Orangutans are endangered because of the rainforest disappearing!

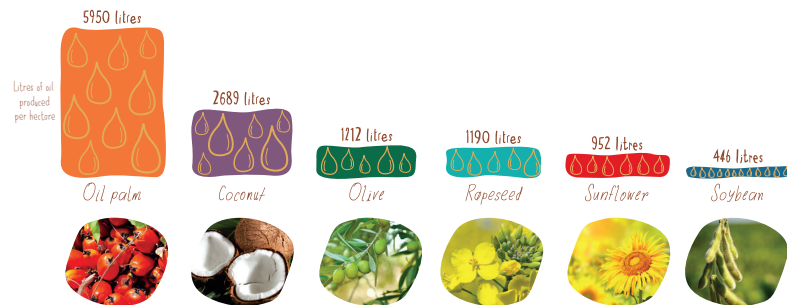
Forest fires are killing off our rainforests!

What is good about palm oil?

Oil palms produce more vegetable oil per land area than any other oil crop

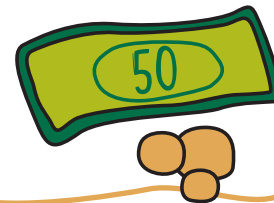
So less land is needed to create the same quantities than other oil crops. Sustainable palm oil practice means FEWER rainforests are at risk from being destroyed to make more plantations.

Have a look at the comparison of how many litres of oil is produced per hectare for the most common vegetable oils...



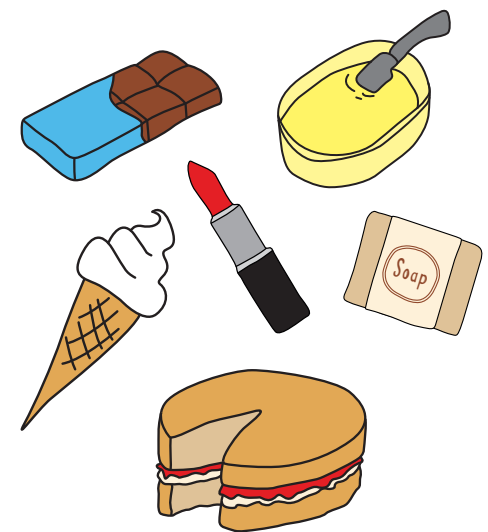
It's VITAL for developing countries

It helps grow their economies and brings people out of poverty. It supports over 3.7 million people in Indonesia alone.



It's a useful VERSATILE product

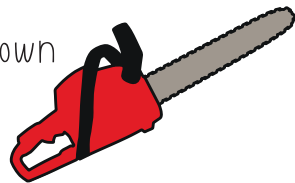
Up to 50% of products in a UK supermarket might contain it. You might find palm oil in these products:



Palm oil has the potential to be environmentally friendly, if grown sustainably

Sustainably produced palm oil **MUST** meet certain criteria

Primary rainforests aren't cut down for new plantations

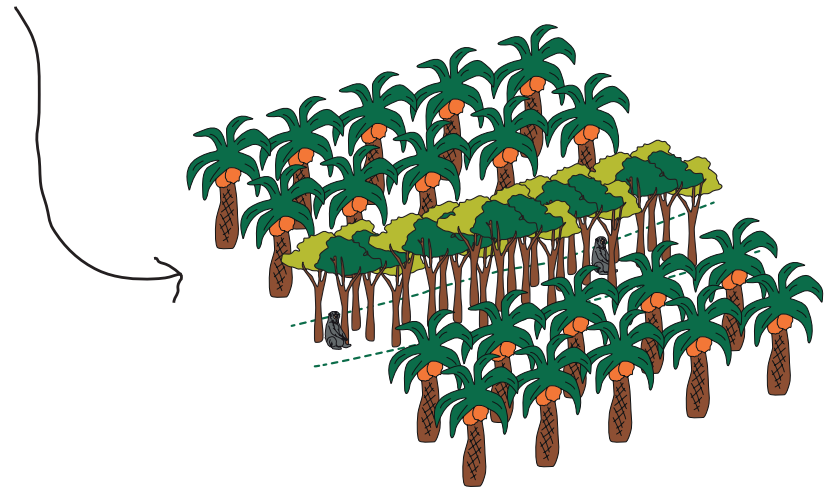


Plantation owners follow best practice to make the plantation efficient and reduce the impact on the environment.

Workers are cared for and given proper wages and rights.

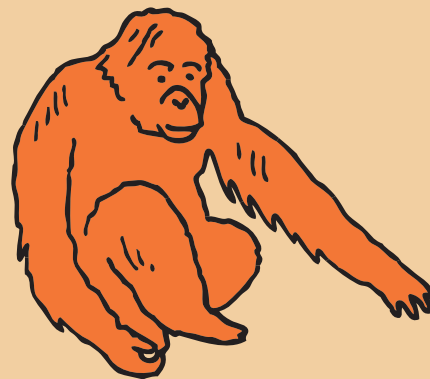


Wildlife corridors are kept to connect fragmented species.



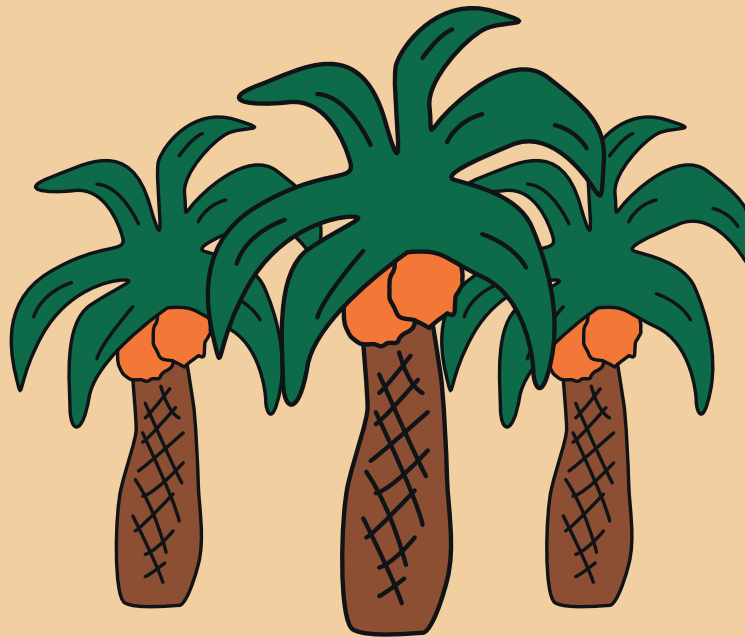
What is RSPO?

- **The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil** has been set up to make sustainable palm oil the norm (the expected form of palm oil). To be a member, organisations have to follow the guidelines to obtain RSPO certification.
- The palm oil industry that is RSPO certified follow stricter rules including banning deforestation, converting peatlands for oil palm plantations and include rules to avoid exploitation of workers.



What has happened in Indonesia?

- Restrictions imposed on Indonesia on further oil palm plantation development has led the way for development of oil palm plantations in other countries e.g. in South America and the movement back to West Africa (from where oil palm came).

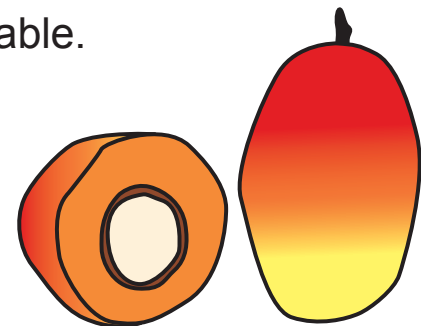


L.O.: To research information about sustainable palm oil

Success Criteria:

I can:

- Explain why some people are against palm oil production.
- Give more than one reason why sustainable palm oil is a preferable product to unsustainable palm oil.
- Explain why the RSPO has been set up.
- Give one or more of the criteria needed to become a certified sustainable company.
- Explain how a specific project is making a plantation more sustainable.



L.O.: To research information about sustainable palm oil

What are the differences between unsustainable palm oil and sustainable palm oil?

- On your whiteboards, write down notes under these headings:

Sustainable palm oil plantations

Unsustainable palm oil plantations

- Watch the following video that explains some of the issues behind oil palm plantations. If possible, make notes while you are watching the video:
- [Chester Zoo video - Palm Oil Perspectives - Wildlife](#)

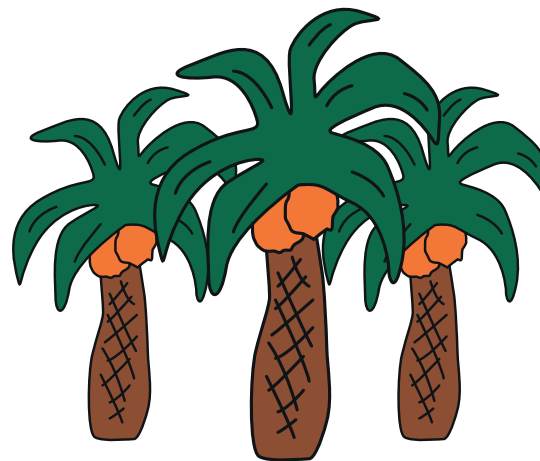
L.O.: To research information about sustainable palm oil

Researching information on sustainable palm oil

*Continue to research sustainable palm oil (palm oil produced from sustainable palm oil plantations).

/ *Research reasons why sustainable palm oil is preferable to unsustainable palm oil. Include information about how a palm oil company becomes a CSPO company (certified sustainable palm oil company).

***Give examples of how projects are helping palm oil plantations become more sustainable.



L.O.: To research information about sustainable palm oil

Where will you find your information

You will use a range of resources to help you. These may include:

- Suitable websites
- Chester Zoo fact cards on sustainable palm oil and sustainable palm oil plantations
- Chester Zoo: 'The Sustainable Palm Oil Challenge Campaign Booklet'
- Chester Zoo: 'A Summary of Sustainable Palm Oil'
- **Highlighting/ underlining and annotating resources, where possible, will help you research the important information. Where this is not possible, you will have to take notes of important points.**



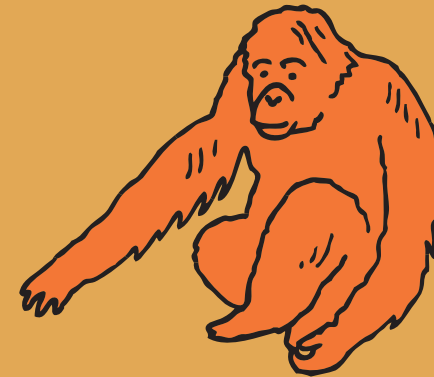
L.O.: To research information about sustainable palm oil

What have you achieved

Success Criteria:

I can:

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- What have you learned?
- What have you managed to complete during this lesson?
- What might you be doing next?