

Sustainable palm oil

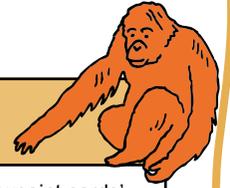
Conservation

Term: Autumn/ Spring/ Summer

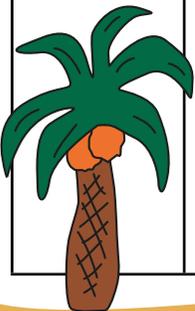
Subject: English 2

Topic: Discussing issues related to the labelling of products

Year: 6



	National Curriculum Links	Overview	Assessment / Questions	Resources
LESSON	<p>English Spoken language Use spoken language to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas. - Consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others. <p>Learning Objective(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss and evaluate different issues related to the labelling of products. <p>Success Criteria I can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss one or more of the statements related to the labelling of products. • Reflect and explain the issue(s) behind the statement. • Consider ways to improve upon the situation. 	<p>Prior learning The children may have been taught lessons related to palm oil in other year groups or even in another subject within the curriculum e.g. Science or Geography.</p> <p>This lesson follows the English lesson, 'Y6 Researching information about sustainable palm oil' that introduces the topic of unsustainable and sustainable palm oil to the Y6 children.</p> <p>Introduction Show the following web page:</p> <p>Chester Zoo: Sustainable Palm Oil Shopping List: www.chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/our-campaigns/sustainable-palm-oil/sustainable-palm-oil-shopping-list/</p> <p>Show the video on this web page:</p> <p>'Chester Zoo: Sustainable Palm Oil Challenge – Supply and Demand'.</p> <p>Explain the importance of choosing to buy products that contain sustainable palm oil. Ask the question:</p> <p><i>'Why is it important that you should try to buy products with sustainable palm oil?'</i></p> <p>Explain that this would mean that the company pledges to not to cut down any more of the rainforest, to limit planting on peatlands, to treat workers fairly and to create wildlife zones ('corridors').</p> <p>Explain that this lesson is about the labelling of products that may or may not contain palm oil. Explain that it is a discussion lesson and therefore the process of discussing different viewpoints, recognising the issues behind them and considering the wider implications (i.e. how these viewpoints might affect behaviour) is as important as the discussion outcomes.</p> <p>Introduce the first activity.</p> <p>Activity 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it important that you should try to buy products with sustainable palm oil? • What do you think the labelling issue is with the situation outlined on your card? • Can you explain the issue behind card? Can you give a reason for clearer labelling? • What is the most important reason for clearer labelling, in your opinion and why? • Do you think clearer labelling might change food in the future? If so, how? • Do you believe labelling on products is an important issue? Why? • What could you do about the situation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Labelling and palm oil viewpoint cards' • Chester Zoo: Sustainable Palm Oil Shopping List: www.chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/our-campaigns/sustainable-palm-oil/sustainable-palm-oil-shopping-list/ • Video on this web page: 'Chester Zoo: Sustainable Palm Oil Challenge – Supply and Demand'. • Video: 'Palm oil perspectives: consumers' www.chesterzoo.org/schools/resources/palm-oil-perspectives-consumers/ • Paper, pens and pencils. • Background information: • Chester Zoo: Sustainable palm oil shopping list www.chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/our-campaigns/sustainable-palm-oil/sustainable-palm-oil-shopping-list/ • Chester Zoo: Our Position on palm oil: www.chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/our-campaigns/sustainable-palm-oil/our-position-on-palm-oil/ • Chester Zoo: Sustainable Palm Oil: Act today to protect wildlife: www.chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/our-campaigns/sustainable-palm-oil/ • Chester Zoo: Demand sustainable palm oil: www.chesterzoo.org/news/sustainable-palm-oil-statement/



LEARN AT **CHESTERZOO**
chesterzoo.org/learning

Supported by
FERRERO

Groups of about 6 children should be given one set of the cards: 'Labelling and palm oil viewpoint cards'. In pairs, the children are to look at the cards in turn. They should be told that each card shows how a person reacts to the labelling on a product. The children are to try to answer the following question for each card:

'What do you think the labelling issue is with the situation outlined on your card?'

The children can feedback their views to the group spokesperson.

* Lower ability children should be paired with a child of higher ability.

**Mixed ability discussion groups.

Mini Plenary

Use the following information to help you guide the discussion:

Card 1 – Assuming that 'palm oil free' is always a good thing is not helpful to those companies who are using sustainable palm oil in their products. Remember, palm oil is highly preferable to other oils; fewer trees are cut down for the crop. The economy of developing countries would be greatly affected if palm oil is not grown.

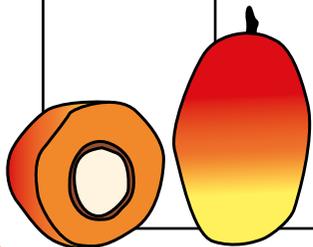
Card 2 – The palm oil mentioned on this card may well be unsustainable and the rainforests may be affected. Unless you know that it is sustainable, then it is better to buy more obviously sustainable products. However, some companies may not have signed up to RSPO certification. Avoidance of products without the RSPO certification label does encourage companies to follow the guidelines of the RSPO and become certified.

Card 3 – See card 2.

Card 4 – By law, palm oil should be mentioned on the labelling. However, palm oil derivatives may be mentioned under an alternative name, so people are not always aware the product contains palm oil. (Beware, though e.g. E471 may be palm oil, soybean oil, cottonseed oil or canola oil!)

Card 5 – If the company has signed up to be certified with the RSPO and has the RSPO label, then it uses sustainable palm oil. We should encourage companies to make this a priority by avoiding buying products that contain palm oil but do not have the RSPO label. In the long term, companies that use sustainable palm oil in their products will benefit – if

- RSPO: Consumers demand more sustainable palm oil products with eco-labels as part of the new normal (Aug 2020): <https://rspo.org/news-and-events/news/consumers-demand-more-sustainable-palm-oil-products-with-eco-labels-as-part-of-the-new-normal>
- Reuters: 'No Palm oil or green palm oil? Retailers face labelling dilemma' www.reuters.com/article/asia-palmoil-consumers-idUKL5N2611XX?edition-redirect=uk
- WWF: Which everyday products contain palm oil? www.worldwildlife.org/pages/which-everyday-products-contain-palm-oil
- Green Palm: Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (2016): www.greenpalm.org/about-palm-oil/sustainable-palm-oil
- Independent: 'The reasons why palm oil is so controversial' (12 Oct 2020): www.independent.co.uk/life-style/palm-oil-health-impact-environment-animals-deforestation-heart-a8505521.html





more people know about the issues, the more likely they are to move to companies with the RSPO label.

Card 6 – People have not always been told the full story. They have just heard that palm oil is destroying the rainforest, so it is important to tell people that sustainable palm oil is acceptable.

Card 7 – By law, palm oil should be mentioned on the labelling. However, palm oil derivatives may be mentioned under an alternative name, so people are not always aware the product contains palm oil. (Beware, though e.g. E471 may be palm oil, soybean oil, cottonseed oil or canola oil!)

Card 8 – In theory, the RSPO label should make it clear that the palm oil is sustainable. We should encourage companies to make this a priority – they will welcome it in the long run, since if more people know about the issues, the more likely they will use products that have the RSPO label.

Card 9 – Some people are unaware of what it means for a product to be 'sustainable'. As far as palm oil is concerned, it involves the company pledging not to cut down any more of the rainforest, to limit planting on peatlands, to treat workers fairly and to create wildlife zones ('corridors'). People need to understand this label, to be happier to buy the product.

Some of the issues for each card can be written in notes on the class whiteboard.

Introduce activity 2. Ask the children:

'Can you devise suitable reasons why there should be clearer labelling on products?'

Activity 2

The children should work together in groups, to devise 3 or 4 main reasons why there should be clearer labelling of palm oil and sustainable palm oil in products. They could write these on large pieces of paper for review by the class.

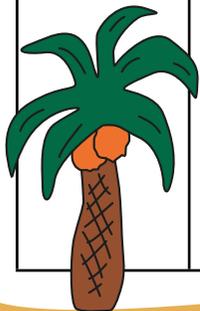
*Peer support.

**Mixed ability discussion groups.

Plenary

Together with the children feeding back their ideas, create class reasons for clearer labelling of palm oil and sustainable palm oil on products. The following are





example points (with background information for discussion in italics).

N.B. Summary of issues for the teacher:

- **For people to know whether the palm oil is considered sustainable or unsustainable since they are concerned about palm oil production.**
 - *People are concerned about whether they are eating palm oil that could be causing deforestation and harm to many plant and animal life and wish to be informed about the ingredients of a product, through adequate labelling.*
- **To have clearer understanding of whether the ingredients contain palm oil derivatives and therefore to consider whether animals, plants and the environment have been affected during palm oil production. For them to understand whether some of the ingredients are sustainable.**
 - *Although palm oil is clearly labelled, its derivatives are written on packaging in many different ways, which are unclear and confusing. This has become controversial, because people believe they are not adequately informed about whether they are consuming palm oil.*
 - *It is not always clear whether the palm oil is sustainable or unsustainable.*
- **To make it clear that not all palm oil is unsustainable.**
 - *Many do not wish to eat products that contain any form of palm oil and many company products promote their avoidance of palm oil. This is dismaying producers who have worked hard for sustainable certification.*
- **To promote the use of the RSPO label and clearer understanding of what this means.**
 - *People should be encouraged to buy larger amounts of palm oil certified as green and ethical.*
 - *It is important that more companies move towards more sustainable practices, possibly due to more people buying sustainable palm oil. By labelling their products with the RSPO label, they are helping to promote sustainability and making more people aware that there is an alternative to unsustainable palm oil and a future for palm oil.*

Review the work achieved so far. Review the learning objective and success criteria. Ask differentiated questions:

'Can you explain the issue behind card?' (Read the card out).

'Can you give a reason for clearer labelling?'

'What is the most important reason for clearer labelling, in

your opinion and why?'

'Do you think clearer labelling might change food in the future? If so, how?'

'Do you believe labelling on products is an important issue? Why?'

'What could you do about the situation?'

Hopefully, the children might have a few ideas e.g. they could write to influential people, such as their local MP or local shopkeepers etc. to explain the importance of selling sustainable products and clear labelling.

Show the Chester Zoo video: 'Palm oil perspectives: consumers'

www.chesterzoo.org/schools/resources/palm-oil-perspectives-consumers/

The video will hopefully reinforce some of the ideas introduced in this lesson.

Possible ongoing work

The children could write a letter to local MPs about the importance of clear labelling of products containing palm oil and CSPO palm oil. See lesson: 'Y6 Planning a persuasive formal letter'.

The children could write a letter to local suppliers to ask them to only stock products which contain CSPO, giving reasons why.

Following the retrieval of information about becoming a CSPO company, start a debate about the reasons for and against the use of (sustainable) palm oil in food and household products.

The children could plan and write a newspaper article about how they have had an impact on local suppliers to only stock products which contain sustainable palm oil.

See lessons in other subject areas related to palm oil.

