



Children's Big Brew activity sheet

Introduction for leaders

These resources focus on the work of Traidcraft with smallholder tea farmers in Northern Bangladesh. A Traidcraft project in Bangladesh is working with some of the region's poorest smallholders to give them access to the knowledge, skills and tools that they need to improve their income, and their lives, by growing tea saplings. The tea is grown and plucked by the farmers and then sold to factories where it is graded, sorted and packaged before being sold on.

As well as growing tea saplings, many of the farmers in the area supplement their income with crops like sugar cane and rice. The extra income that they get from growing good quality tea is helping to lift people out of poverty, not just the farmers themselves but also their families and communities.

Use these activities and the accompanying power point to explore the life of a tea farmer and help the children gain an insight into the lives of other young people across the world.

Shathi's story

Tell the children about Shathi and her family.

Shathi lives in Bangladesh. She's 12 years old and lives with her mum, dad, brother and sisters in a rural part of the country, near the border with India.

The area that Shathi lives in is very special, as it's where some of the tea that we drink in the UK is grown. It's also a very poor area; many of the people in this area live in poverty and many children aren't able to go to school to get an education, meaning they're much more likely to live in poverty when they grow up.

Shathi's mum and dad both work in the tea business. Her mum grows tea on their small farm and her dad drives the van which picks up the tea leaves and takes them to a factory to be dried and sold.

In the past Shathi's mum and dad have struggled to make enough money from their business. They could only grow a very small crop of sugar cane and rice to sell in their local market. The soil in their area is not very good for farming these crops, but Shanthi's mum and dad had no choice because they could not afford the training and equipment they would need to grow other crops. This meant that their home was very basic, made of woven thatch and with no running water or electricity inside.

Traidcraft is a fair trade organisation working with some of the world's poorest farmers and producers, people like Shathi's mum and dad. Traidcraft set up a project in the area where Shathi lives to help farmers grow more and better crops, like tea bushes. They helped these farmers to organise into groups, meaning that the members can all support one another by contributing new ideas, different skills and even by sharing money between them in emergencies. The groups make sure that no one is struggling, and all help as much as they can.

Thanks to Traidcraft, Shathi's mum and dad are able to grow more, earn more and have hope for the future. They plan to improve their home and get running water to make life easier. Shathi and her brother and sisters can go to school, so the pattern of poverty will not repeat itself.

Organise a Tea treasure hunt

Tea is very precious to Shanthi and her family, almost like treasure! The tea must be handled very carefully as the leaves and buds are very delicate, and only the top two leaves and the bud can be used in tea production.

Use our tea leaves template and organise a treasure hunt for the children. Print and photocopy the templates, mounting them onto card if you like. Write your own clues on the back of the templates to send the children in the right direction.

Why not buy a Traidcraft prize for the first team to complete the treasure hunt? Go to www.traidcraftshop.co.uk to browse our full range of products.

Craft activity

Have a go at making your own decorative coasters

Hot drinks like tea, coffee or hot chocolate are great, especially when the weather is cold outside, and every self respecting hot drink needs a coaster to go with it!

To make your own coaster you will need:

- A piece of felt (or another material) for each child. Make sure it's large enough to stand your mug on with some of the material showing around the outside
- Accessories to decorate your coaster – sequins, glitter and fabric paint all work very well but large items like buttons can make the coaster unstable and dangerous.
- Glue
- Scissors if the felt needs to be cut to size

The coaster can be any size and shape you like. Younger children may need help cutting out their piece of felt.

IMPORTANT: When the children have finished decorating their coasters make sure they are stable and safe to stand drinks on.

If felt isn't enough of a challenge why not knit a coaster? Using and wool you like and needles no larger than 4mm cast on 25 stitches and knit 25 rows for a square coaster. You can then decorate the coaster in whatever way you like.



TRAIDCRAFT

