

Stop the pattern of poverty repeating itself this Christmas

KS1 and 2

Have the children in your class use potatoes to make their own block printed Christmas wrapping paper and sell the paper to parents and friends, or at a Christmas fair. Donate the money you make to Traidcraft Exchange to help us continue our life changing work. Even a small amount can make a big difference!

You will need:

- Potatoes cut in half with Christmassy design cut outs for printing
- Paints in various colours
- Plain sheets of wrapping paper to print onto
- Paper and pens
- The 'My Working Day' worksheet (see below to order this free sheet)

Opening activity

Give each child in the class a piece of paper and a pen and ask them to write down what job they would like to do when they grow up. Ask them to fold up their pieces of paper and get them to place the papers in a hat or bowl in the middle of the room. Get the children to take it in turns to pick a piece of paper from the hat and mime the occupation. Ask the other children to guess what they think the occupation being mimed might be.

Once the occupation has been guessed ask whose piece of paper it was. Ask the child to explain why they would like to do this job when they're older. Ask the children if any of them would like to do the same job as their parent when they are older.

Main activity

Tell the children about Rahul and his mum Sushila. Sushila is a block printer and her story is in the box below. You could also use the accompanying powerpoint and the 'My Working Day' worksheet to tell their story. The worksheet is available free by calling 0191 4976488 or emailing fundraising@traidcraft.co.uk. Give us a call and we will post one out to you.



Did you know?

- Women work two thirds of the world's working hours
- Women produce half of the world's food

And yet...

- Women earn just 10% of the world's pay

- And own less than 1% of the world's property.

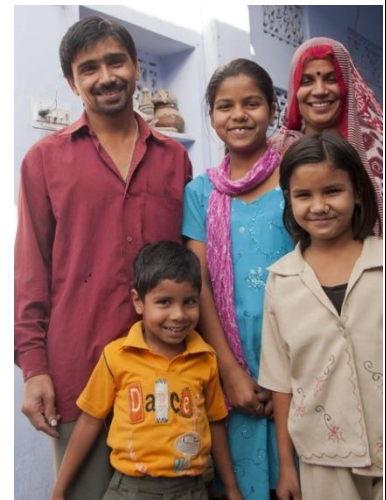
70% of the world's poorest people are women. Women like Sushila who lives in Rathasthan, India. In her area textiles have been hand-printed using carved wooden blocks for centuries. But until now, women like Sushila have found it hard to learn the skills they need to make a living.



Sushila has three children and never had the chance to attend school. The pattern of poverty was in danger of repeating itself for families like Sushila's. Sushila was one of the first recipients of training provided by Traidcraft for women working in the block printing industry. The training covers all aspects of block printing, from dyes and patterns to preparing fabrics and improving quality. Her monthly income has doubled to around 5000 rupees (£60) and her extra income means a better quality of life for her children, including 5 year old Rahul – providing them with better food and uniforms so they can get the education she never had.

Importantly, Sushila is saving a little

money each month so she can expand her business. Sushila's dreams are the same as any parent's. She says, "My objective is to provide my children with a good education so they can get well established in their life."



With the help of your school we could train even more women like Sushila so that they are able to provide for their families.

Explain to the children that they are going to have a go at doing Sushila's job and block print some Christmas wrapping paper. Use one of the potatoes to demonstrate the printing technique and allow the children to have a go, being careful with the paint. Use the 'My Working Day' worksheet to explain how Sushila's block printing has improved since she received training from Traidcraft and how life has changed for her family because of her new skills.

Sell the wrapping paper to friends, family, or at your Christmas fair! When you've collected in all donations for your wrapping paper please write a cheque for the amount received to Traidcraft Exchange and send it to Traidcraft, Kingsway, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE11 ONE.

What your gift could do:

£15 could help a woman like Sushila learn cloth printing to help support her family.

£30 could buy essential equipment including gloves, masks and aprons so that women like Sushila can work in safety

£75 could help a workshop switch to using only natural, organic dyes to reduce the need for chemicals

£150 could help to build a community effluent treatment plant to make sure the cloth printing processes do not harm the village's water supply

You can use the 'my working day' sheet to explain more about Sushila and her family. Please call 0191 4976488 or email fundraising@traidcraft.co.uk to order this worksheet.