

# An Activity for Fair Trade Week

## Instructions

- Go onto the following website and download the worksheet.  
<http://www.pbs.org/livelihood/planetnetwork/classroom/math1.html>
- The contents of the worksheet are replicated on page 2 (curriculum links have been added by Sarah). It can be adapted for the UK – where the minimum wage is £4.85 but about to be reviewed.
- Duplicate and distribute page 2. Students may work independently or cooperatively.

### Main Curriculum Links

**N1/E3.9 Use and interpret  $+$   $-$   $\times$   $\div$  and  $=$  in practical situations for solving problems** (a) understand that  $+$   $-$   $\times$   $\div$  represent operations.

**N1/L2.3 Calculate ratio and direct proportion** (a) understand ratio written in the form  $3 : 2$  (b) understand how to work out the number of parts in a given ratio, and the value of one part.

**N2/L2.7 Order and compare percentages and understand percentage increase and decrease.**

## Fair Trade Prices



In segment 1, Green Mountain Coffee sells a line of fair trade coffee that helps small farmers receive a fair price for their harvest despite falling prices in the coffee bean market. Farmers receive \$1.26 per pound at the fair trade price instead of the open market price of \$0.50 per pound. Using this information, answer the following questions:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| • What is the percent difference between the fair trade price and the open market price?   | <b>N2/L2.7</b>   |
| • If a regular cup of coffee made from coffee beans purchased at the open market price costs \$1.00, how much would a cup of coffee made from coffee beans purchased at the fair trade price cost? Use the ratio of the open market price and the fair trade price to solve the problem. | <b>N1/L2.3</b>   |
| • What is the difference in cost between a cup of fair trade coffee and a cup of open market coffee? Would you be willing to pay this difference in price?   | <b>N1/E3.9</b> (if the answer to above is provided) and everybody, whatever the level, can discuss the answer. |

- The Planet Work Web site offers help in finding information on Fair Trade products on the Internet. <http://www.pbs.org/livelyhood/planetnetwork/surviving/fair.html>

Now imagine that your favourite beverage or other product is produced at the expense of workers around the world. How much more would you be willing to pay to ensure that labourers receive a fair price for their work?

## Minimum Wage

Many garment workers in Cambodia (segment 9) are overworked and underpaid. Dara, a garment cutter, and his wife work 11 hours a day, 6 days a week. Together, they earn a total of \$140 per month. Use this information to answer the following questions:

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • What is Dara's hourly wage?  | <b>N1/E3.9</b><br>(with a calculator) |
| • Compare Dara's hourly wage to the minimum wage in the United States. How much would Dara and his wife make per month if they worked the same number of hours, at a rate of \$5.15 per hour? (Remember to figure hours in excess of 40 per week at 150% of the regular wage.) | <b>N1/E3.9</b>                        |
| • How much would the couple make in one year in Cambodia? In the United States?  | <b>N1/E3.9</b>                        |

Create a chart that shows Dara's salary per day, month and year in Cambodia with the salary in the United states.

- To learn more about Dara visit the Planet Work Web site (and then click on the 'video' option). <http://www.pbs.org/livelyhood/planetnetwork/surviving/hell.html>