

The Dark Side of Chocolate

Name: _____ Grade/Class: _____

Most of us have enjoyed a delicious piece of chocolate, but have you even thought about where your chocolate comes from?

About 70% of the world's cocoa supply comes from West Africa- Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon. Ivory Coast and Ghana are the biggest producers by far, 90% of cocoa is produced on small scale farms in these countries. For most of these farmers, cocoa is their primary income. Producing cocoa is hard, manual labour and yet these farmers are not paid very much- the average farmer only makes about \$5 a day, which supports 6- 10 dependants.

The farmers have little say in the price of cocoa beans, which is instead decided by companies in Europe and America- driven by profit.

To increase production and to simply survive, many farmers have turned to child labour and even slavery to increase production and thus income.

Cocoa's child labourers-

The Washington Post 16 June 2019

Mars, Nestlé and Hershey to face child slavery lawsuit in US-

The Guardian 12 February 2021

Agreement to end child labour on Cocoa farms-

The International Labour Federation October 2001

Nestle and Cargill win child slavery case at Supreme Court

CNBC 17 June 2021

The Dark Side of Chocolate Activity

Please watch the following news clip:

<https://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2015/05/26/chocolate-child-slaves-ivory-coast-spc-cfp.cnn>

While watching think about the following questions:

What do you think it means to be ethical?

How do you think ethical consumerism can affect the cocoa farmers choices?

Do you think about factors like environmental and human ethics when purchasing items?

Task

You are going to write a commentary discussing the ethical dilemma involved in chocolate making and suggest potential solutions to mitigate negative effects.

Choose one of the following formats to present your discussion:

1. A formal letter to the chocolate board or government
2. A newspaper article
3. A guide to ethical consumerism using the chocolate industry as an example
4. A PowerPoint/ keynote to share the information with others

The following resources may be helpful:

<https://www.fairtrade.net/product/cocoa>

<https://makechocolatefair.org/issues/cocoa-production-nutshell>

<https://tradingvisions.org/content/there-enough-money-cocoa-supply-chain>

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2021.732831/full>

<https://theconversation.com/child-slavery-in-west-africa-understanding-cocoa-farming-is-key-to-ending-the-practice-170315>

<https://www.slavefreechocolate.org/>