

Your lunch means the world



Did you know that what you have in your lunch box can affect the whole world? At young reporters club our theme has been lunch boxes. Everything in your lunch has got a story. It may have palm oil, which is making rainforest animals endangered – and we could lose them. Also plastic is such a waste and it starts with you.

We have been looking at the story threads from our packed lunches. Like how did it get here, who made it, and where did they make it. We have been seeing that even tiny things like your lunch has a very big story and you can write about anything.

We have been learning about where our food comes from. Beyond the shop, how much were they paid? What was it made of? How far did it travel? When was it planted? Do you let your rubbish drift away into the sea, where plastic is a massive issue? How much electricity was used to make it?

We researched things we wanted to know like how much litter is in the ocean? Or why is that species endangered? What can we do so that everyone can feel equal?

We have been thinking about the big picture in our packed lunches. The big picture is found out by asking the questions: who, what and where? The main ideas are climate change, equality, endangered species and litter on land and in the sea.

The world is changing

We chose climate change because it is important and needs to be stopped or else we'll be living on a boiling planet. Climate change is the planet getting too warm, causing sea ice to melt and deserts to expand. Animals from southern countries, like bee-eaters, are coming north to Britain. Some species, like mountain hares, die because they turn white in the winter to camouflage with the snow, but because of climate change, there isn't any snow to hide them.

You may be surprised to know that a packed lunch could have an effect on climate change. We decided to write about tomatoes as they come from loads of places. We had tomatoes in our lunch and thought up some questions: who grew them? How many were grown? If it

came by plane, how much fuel did it use?

We looked up a food miles calculator website and found that if it came by:

Aeroplane:

451 kgCO₂ or 123 kg Carbon

Car:

364 kgCO₂ or 99 kg Carbon

Train:

125 kgCO₂ or 34 kg Carbon

Bitter litter

Packed lunches can affect the planet especially through litter. Litter can be transported into the sea, killing hundreds of animals. The litter from lunch tends to be ridiculous. Why can't you just take a second to walk over to a bin or put it inside your lunchbox instead of dropping it on the ground?



We chose litter because we care about the environment and think it is an interesting subject because it is becoming a colossal problem and we want to get people to help us in our fight for the environment. We looked at our lunchboxes and thought: why do people drop litter? They could do it because there might not be any bins. Also they could just be lazy and drop it on the ground.

"I think that if people find it OK to litter they find it OK to destroy the planet. If I had a say I would stop making plastic and make sure the Earth is litter free. If everyone got to look at what we have done to our home they would be horrified."

The orangutans count on our lunch!

The subject that we have chosen is endangered species because we all like animals. Palm Oil is the key one. Why are they using it when it is just for flavour? The list of products containing palm oil seems almost endless. Palm oil is found in around half of supermarket products, like soaps and shampoos, and in many kinds of food. Producing the oil often involves felling virgin rainforest, reducing biodiversity, destroying the habitat of endangered species such as orangutans, elephants and tigers, and ruining the livelihoods of local people.

Fair trade is good – always buy their food!

We believe it is very important that everybody is equal. P7 had a topic on anti-prejudice which involves equality. Not everybody is treated equally and we want them to be. We watched a video and it told us to show racism the red card. This really interested us because we have mentioned not everyone is equal in the world and we want to change that. We had looked at chocolate bars in our lunches like Crunchies and Snickers. We asked about the conditions cocoa farmers are in and they don't actually get much money. This can change because of Fairtrade. Fairtrade helps farmers who have to work most of the day in hot weather by giving them more money.

Down below we will give you the link to the Fair-trade website to find out more info!

www.fairtrade.org.uk

I bet you never thought about this before, but now you are so what do you think? If you have something like crisps the packaging can destroy the environment.



Deforestation is deadly. Please change your ways and stop hurting our eco-system. Everywhere bad things are happening to our world. Our eco-system is being damaged and our world is getting worse: the sea is rising and is being filled with junk. Rubbish is everywhere and every little bit is destroying the planet. You must stop littering or our world will die. Stop and never do it again.

We have been learning about how everything is connected – we have looked at palm oil production and orangutans, endangered species, equality, tomatoes and ocean litter. We have looked at what effect a mere packed lunch can have on the whole world.

Wallacestone Primary School Young Reporters Club

