

From the supermarket shelf

Aim - A simple starting point to help people understand the people involved in the supply chain of a banana that is simple, quick, visually memorable and fun.

You will need – Activity cards with each part in the production chain written on them. (see overleaf)

Let's get started

This exercise can be done by either asking small teams to go away and work on their production line and then come back and show the rest of the group or by enabling a team of volunteers to come up to the front and build the chain in front of everyone else.

Give out the 8 cards to 8 people. Ask them to see if they can line up in order with the banana consumer in Britain at one end and the plantation worker at the other.

Once the 8 people have positioned themselves correctly ask each one needs to find a repetitive gesture or movement that they could do that shows their role in the production line; Mum lifting bananas from the supermarket shelf, the banana importer

ticking a sheet on a clipboard or the supermarket owner picking up the telephone to make an order. The gestures are only meant to be representational so simple ideas are best, particularly as the movement needs to be repeated over and over again.

Each person starts their gesture and says their line which describes their role one after the other. Once the movement has started they keep it going, but the words don't need to be repeated until all 8 people have said their line. At this stage the first person in the chain says their line and it all begins again!

These ideas can be developed and followed by using other activities: the Banana Game and the Balance of Power.

The correct order of the cards is as follows:

I'm the child and I eat bananas, yum yum

I'm the mum and I buy bananas in the supermarket

I'm the supermarket owner and I order bananas from Latin America

I'm the banana importer and I make sure the supermarket gets the bananas they have ordered

I'm the worker on the ship that brings the bananas to Britain, I look after the bananas and keep them cold

I'm the plantation worker, I look after the bananas when they grow and then pick them

I'm the pack house worker, I work in the banana packing shed and wash the bananas

I'm the banana packer, I have to make sure I only pack good quality bananas for export

Activity Cards

I'm the child and I eat bananas, yum yum

Supermarket activity

I'm the mum and I buy bananas in the supermarket

Supermarket activity

I'm the supermarket owner and I order bananas from Latin America

Supermarket activity

I'm the banana importer and I make sure the supermarket gets the bananas they have ordered

Supermarket activity

I'm the worker on the ship that brings the bananas to Britain, I look after the bananas

Supermarket activity

I'm the plantation worker, I look after the bananas when they grow and then pick them

Supermarket activity

I'm the pack house worker, I work in the banana packing shed and wash the bananas

Supermarket activity

I'm the banana packer, I have to make sure I only pack good quality bananas for export

Supermarket activity