

The chocolate trade game

Introductory activities

Activity: Where in the world?

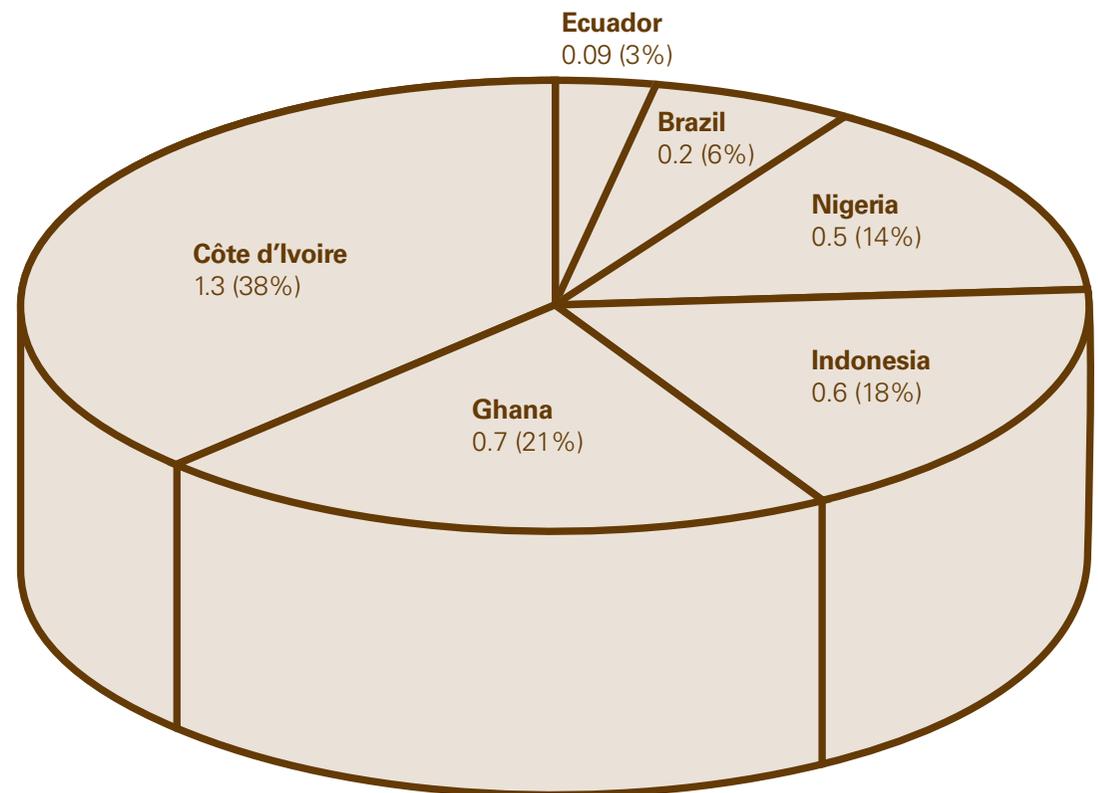
This activity highlights the fact that the major cocoa-producing countries are in the poorer South and the major chocolate-producing countries are in the richer North.

Give groups of children photocopies of a world map. Ask them to find the countries where cocoa is grown (see pie chart, right) and to colour those countries green. Then ask them to find the countries that produce chocolate (see bar chart, page 2b) and to colour those countries red. Ask them to discuss the countries coloured in and to say what they notice about the position of those countries.

Talk about the North/South divide and how countries that produce raw materials often have very little manufacturing output, and therefore earn less money than the rich industrialised countries of the North.

Top cocoa producers in 2007 (in million metric tonnes)

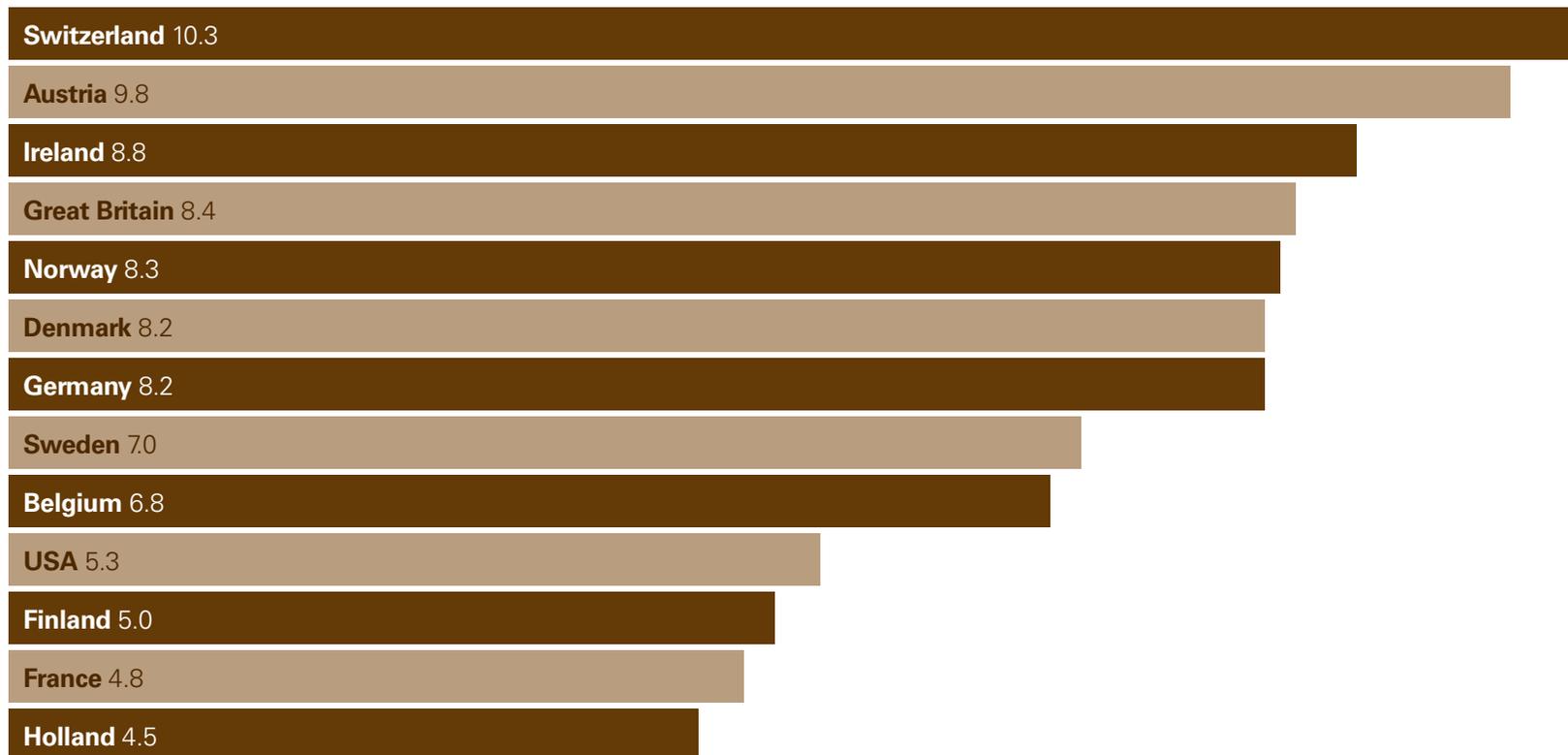
Total = 3.39 million metric tonnes



Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN,
Production Statistics Database, <http://faostat.fao.org/site/526/default.aspx>

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Annual chocolate consumption (in kilograms per person)



Source: International Cocoa Organisation,
Quarterly Bulletin of Cocoa Statistics, 2002.

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Activity: A fair share?

'A fair share?' will help young people to describe the different stages in the production of a chocolate bar, and to experience the frustrations of sharing out the cost of a chocolate bar between the different groups involved in its production.

Assign everyone in the group a role in the cocoa-trading chain (see far right). Discuss what might happen at each stage in the production of chocolate.

Ask each group to discuss their role and decide how much of the cost of a chocolate bar (£1) should come to them. Each group then presents their suggestions. Add up the total.

The total is likely to exceed £1, in which case each group should rethink their costs and suggest another figure. Give them the actual amounts (right) and discuss how each group feels about their amount. Is it fair?

The group could draw a diagram of a chocolate bar, and divide it according to the above figures, using percentages. In reality, the roles of cocoa buyer, importer and chocolate company are often carried out by one company, which means that it gets even more of the price of the chocolate bar.

It is also important to note that the last four stages of the chain, the most profitable, are usually carried out in manufacturing countries, which means that an even higher proportion of the money goes to those countries that are already rich.

Actual amounts

farmer _____	8p
cocoa buyers _____	7p
importer _____	14p
chocolate company _____	28p
shops _____	28p
government _____	15p

Source: Dave Richards and Chris Blythe, *X-changing the World*, Reading International Solidarity Centre, 1997.

Cocoa-trading chain

Farmers:

- grow and care for the cocoa trees for three to five years
- harvest the cocoa pods in very hot temperatures
- remove the beans from the pods
- ferment the beans for six days and dry them for ten days
- take the sacks of beans to sell to cocoa buyers.

Cocoa buyers:

- weigh the sacks of beans
- pay the farmer for the beans
- arrange to take the beans to the port.

Importers:

- arrange transport for the beans from Ghana to the UK and Ireland
- turn the beans into cocoa solids and cocoa butter.

Chocolate companies:

- buy the cocoa solids and cocoa butter
- buy the other ingredients
- make the chocolate bars
- pay for the chocolate bar wrappers
- pay for advertising the chocolate bars.

Shops:

- buy the chocolate bars from the chocolate companies
- sell the chocolate bars to shoppers.

Government:

- charges tax on the chocolate bars.