

Global Learning Unit

AUTHOR:	ACRACCS-CISV
COUNTRY:	Italy
TITLE:	Food in transit
STUDENTS' AGE:	11-14 years
SUBJECTS:	The journey of food, the supply chain concept
DURATION:	10

Competences:

- Communication in the mother tongue
- Mathematical skills and basic competences in science and technology
- Learning to learn
- Social and civic skills
- Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship

Objectives:

- Learning that on their way from the producer to the consumer, food items are handled by many intermediaries; considering the negative consequences this may have.
- Learning about the exploitation of resources and farm workers by large multinational companies.
- Discovering the different relationships that exist between producers and consumers.

Activities:

1. Between production and consumption, food often travels a great deal

Discover the journey of ingredients used in food items that are consumed regularly (e.g. fruit yoghurt). Explore the impact on costs, freshness, pollution and energy consumption for transport and cooling. Discuss possible causes.

2. The 0 km proposal

Evaluate the positive aspects of this proposal as well as its limitations. Identify the foodstuffs for which this is desirable and feasible.

3. Long supply chains



Identify the intermediaries that can intervene between a producer and a consumer and discuss the impact these middlemen may have on prices.

Uncover the power some of these intermediaries have when acting in a monopoly or oligopoly context; their influence when it comes to the production system and production modes, consumption, market prices and the percentage that is finally paid to the producer. Find stories of producer exploitation in Northern and Southern countries.

4. Short supply chains

Find out whether in your country there are any alternatives to using intermediaries (solidarity-based purchasing groups, fair trade, self-production, etc.). Conduct interviews and pay visits to agricultural holdings or fair trade outlets.

