



# Food and Biodiversity Global Topics

Learn more about each of our eight Global Topics before choosing which one your school would like to focus on.

# Our Diet, Our Rainforest



THIS GLOBAL TOPIC LOOKS AT THE IMPORTANCE OF RAINFORESTS AND HOW FOOD PRODUCTION IS HARMING THESE IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEMS.



## AREAS TO RESEARCH:

- IMPORTANCE OF RAINFORESTS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
- IMPACTS OF PALM OIL AND OTHER CASH CROPS ON DEFORESTATION
- ETHICS OF PALM OIL INDUSTRY AND EFFECT ON LOCAL WORKFORCE



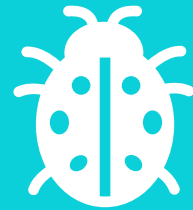
## POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS OR WORKSHOPS:

- CONDUCT A PALM OIL AUDIT IN SCHOOL LUNCHES OR OTHER PRODUCTS IN YOUR SCHOOL
- DO A SCHOOL FUNDRAISER TO CONTRIBUTE TO A CHARITY THAT WORKS WITH AFFECTED SPECIES OR RAINFOREST CONSERVATION

# Pesticides and Wildlife



THIS GLOBAL TOPIC EXPLORES HOW USING PESTICIDES ON CROPS AFFECTS THE ENVIRONMENT AND EXAMINES OTHER POSSIBLE WAYS THAT WE CAN PROTECT CROPS.



## AREAS TO RESEARCH:

- WHAT ARE PESTICIDES AND HOW DO THEY WORK?
- WHAT OTHER PLANTS AND ANIMALS CAN BE AFFECTED BY PESTICIDES?
- ALTERNATIVES TO CHEMICAL PESTICIDES



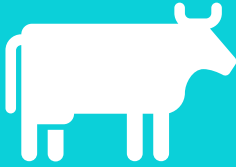
## POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS OR WORKSHOPS:

- INVESTIGATE THE USE OF PESTICIDES IN YOUR SCHOOL OR AT HOME
- TRY OUT SOME NATURAL METHODS AS AN EXPERIMENT
- ORGANISE A LOCAL SPEAKER ON BEES/BIRDS OF PREY TO TALK ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES ON OTHER SPECIES
- VISIT AN ORGANIC FARM AND LEARN ABOUT THE METHODS THEY USE

# Our Diet, Our Climate

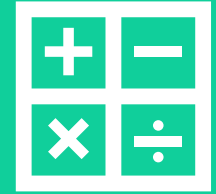


THIS GLOBAL TOPIC LOOKS AT HOW OUR DIETS EFFECT CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING THE IMPACT OF MEAT AND DAIRY



**AREAS TO RESEARCH:**

- HOW DIFFERENT AREAS OF FOOD PRODUCTION LIKE GROWING, PROCESSING, PACKAGING AND TRANSPORT IMPACT CLIMATE CHANGE
- CARBON FOOTPRINT OF DIFFERENT FOODS
- FOCUS ON MEAT AND DAIRY AND WHY THEIR CARBON FOOTPRINT IS SO HIGH



**POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS OR WORKSHOPS:**

- CALCULATE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT IN YOUR LUNCH BOX AND WORK OUT THE FOOTPRINT OF YOUR CLASS THAT DAY
- GET INVOLVED WITH A CLIMATE STRIKE OR OTHER CLIMATE PROTEST
- HOST A LOW CARBON PICNIC AT YOUR SCHOOL

# Protecting Pollinators



THIS GLOBAL TOPIC LOOKS AT THE IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATORS SUCH AS BEES AND BUTTERFLIES IN IRELAND, THEIR IMPACT ON SOME OF OUR FOOD CROPS, THE THREATS THEY FACE AND HOW WE CAN HELP PROTECT THEM.

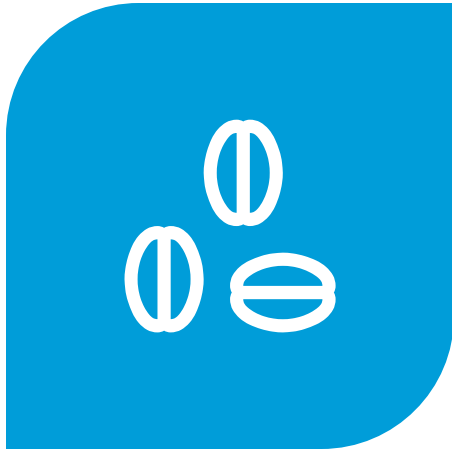
## **AREAS TO RESEARCH:**

- WHAT IS POLLINATION AND WHY DOES IT MATTER
- DIFFERENT SPECIES OF BEES, THEIR LIFECYCLES AND HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM
- IMPORTANT HABITATS AND FLOWERS WHICH ATTRACT POLLINATORS
- THREATS TO POLLINATORS INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND HABITAT LOSS

## **POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS OR WORKSHOPS:**

- TRY OUT THE POLLINATOR PLAN IN YOUR SCHOOL GROUNDS
- GET INVOLVED WITH BUMBLEBEE IDENTIFICATION SURVEYS WITH BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE
- INVITE BEEKEEPERS TO SPEAK TO YOUR SCHOOL

# Food Waste



THIS GLOBAL TOPIC LOOKS AT THE HUGE AMOUNT OF FOOD WHICH IS GROWN BUT NEVER EATEN, HOW WE CAN REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND WHAT HAPPENS TO FOOD THAT IS THROWN IN THE BIN

## AREAS TO RESEARCH:

- WHERE AND HOW DOES FOOD GET WASTED
- HOW CAN WE HELP STOP FOOD WASTE
- IMPACT OF FOOD LABELLING
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF WASTED FOOD

## POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS OR WORKSHOPS:

- VISIT A LANDFILL SITE OR INCINERATOR TO SEE WHERE FOOD WASTE CAN END UP
- CARRY OUT A SCHOOL SURVEY ON FOOD WASTE DURING LUNCH TIME
- START MAKING YOUR OWN COMPOST AT SCHOOL

# Food Miles

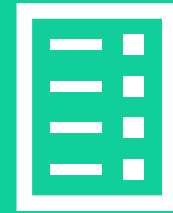


THIS GLOBAL TOPIC EXPLORES THE FACT THAT LOTS OF THE FOOD WE EAT TRAVELS MANY MILES TO REACH US. BOTH THE TRANSPORT AND THE EXTRA PROCESSING INVOLVED TO KEEP FOOD “FRESH” OVER LONG DISTANCES CAN DAMAGE THE ENVIRONMENT.



## **AREAS TO RESEARCH:**

- HOW DO FOOD MILES ADD UP
- WHAT HAPPENS TO KEEP FOOD FRESH WHEN BEING TRANSPORTED INCLUDING PACKAGING
- SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF FOOD MILES
- EATING FOODS “IN SEASON”



## **POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS OR WORKSHOPS:**

- CALCULATE THE NUMBER OF FOOD MILES IN YOUR LUNCH BOX
- INVESTIGATE PACKAGING AND SINGLE USE PLASTIC IN COMMONLY USED FOODS
- ORGANISE A TRIP TO A LOCAL LANDFILL OR INCINERATOR TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PACKAGING.

# Who is your Farmer?



THIS GLOBAL TOPIC INVESTIGATES THE PEOPLE GROWING AND PRODUCING OUR FOOD. WHAT THEIR WORKING CONDITIONS ARE AND WHAT PROCESSES ARE USED ON THE FOOD WE EAT

## **AREAS TO RESEARCH:**

- HOW MUCH OF THE FOOD WE BUY IS PRODUCED LOCALLY
- PROCESSED VS WHOLE FOOD
- WORKING CONDITIONS FOR FARM WORKERS AT HOME AND ABROAD
- FAIRTRADE

## **POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS OR WORKSHOPS:**

- VISIT A LOCAL FARM OR FARMER'S MARKET
- HOST A SCHOOL PICNIC WITH LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE
- CARRY OUT A PROJECT ON THE FOOD IN YOUR LUNCH BOX. FIND OUT WHERE IT WAS PRODUCED AND WHO WAS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THAT FARM



# Crop Diversity



THIS GLOBAL TOPIC EXAMINES THE DECREASE IN VARIETY OF FOOD CROPS BEING GROWN OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS AND THE IMPACT THIS MAY HAVE ON FOOD SECURITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT



## AREAS TO RESEARCH:

- NUMBER OF CROPS GOING EXTINCT EACH YEAR. FOOD CROPS WHICH WERE GROWN IN THE PAST.
- SEED BANKS AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO SAVE SEED DIVERSITY
- THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISEASE ON FOOD SECURITY



## POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS OR WORKSHOPS:

- INVESTIGATE HOW MANY DIFFERENT CROPS ARE EATEN BY YOUR CLASS AND HOW MANY ARE AVAILABLE
- LEARN ABOUT SEED SAVING AND START A SCHOOL SEED BANK
- DO A PROJECT ON THE IRISH POTATO FAMINE AND HOW CROP DIVERSITY PLAYED A BIG ROLE