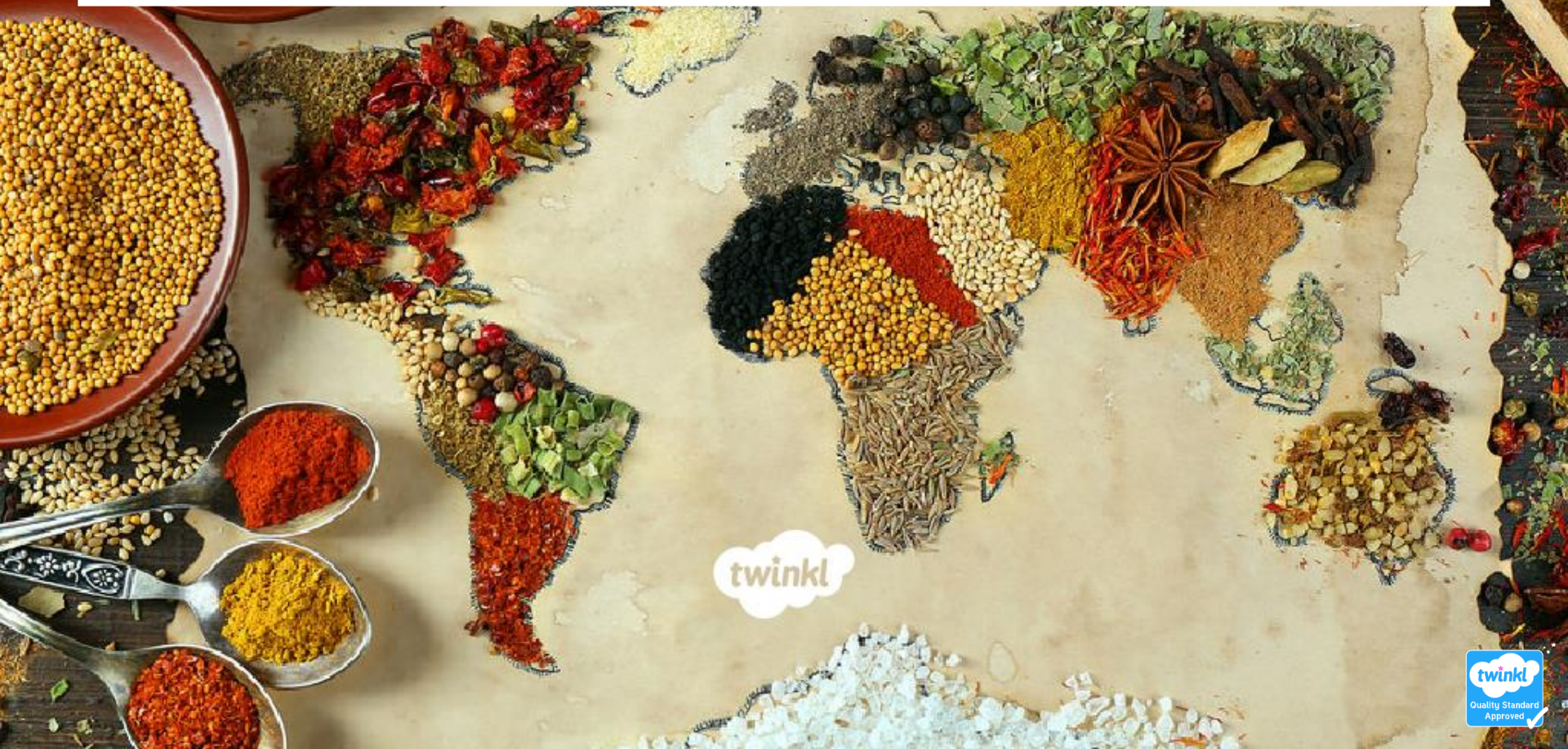


Food Miles Don't Matter,
It's Choice That Counts
Discuss.



Food Miles

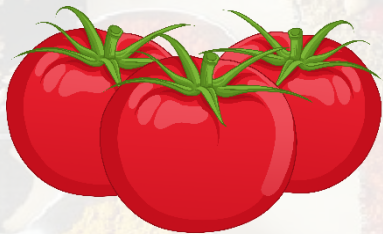
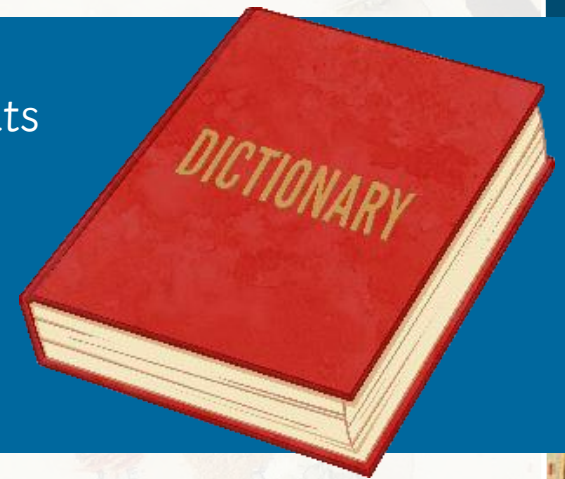


In general, the more miles the food has travelled before it gets to your plate, the greater the impact on the environment in terms of carbon dioxide emissions.

Dictionary

Food miles: The distance that foodstuffs travel from its point of production on a farm to the consumer.

Carbon dioxide emissions: This is the pollution created by vehicles as they burn fossil fuels such as diesel and petrol.



Where in the World?

Choose two foods that you really would not like to give up and write them down.

Do you know the country of origin of these foods?

Later, you will be able to use the activity sheet **Food From Around The World** to plot the foodstuffs onto the map at their place of origin.

What do you know about the origin of your favourite foods?

Food from around the World

We have bananas from Ecuador and Jamaica, rice from Italy and Thailand, cocoa (in chocolate) from Venezuela and Colombia and strawberries and oranges from Spain. Much of the food we eat travels a long way before we eat it.

Make a list of 10 of your favourite foods. Find out where they are produced and plot this onto the map below.



<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Secondary

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- It is estimated that each item of food we consume now travels 50% further than it did in 1979.
- The average pound of food in America travels 1,200 miles and changes hands half a dozen times between producer and consumer.
- Potatoes and apples cover an average of 3,000 miles before reaching Birmingham's shops.
- Strawberries are air-freighted from Guatemala in December; parsnips from Australia in August and apples are transported from New Zealand.

Benefits of Food Exports for LICs and HICs



In order to supply cheap produce all year round, many supermarkets import food from other countries around the world where it is cheaper to produce or grows more plentifully. Some developing countries rely on food exports to the UK to generate income.

In groups, draw a list of reasons why it is good for the economy of low-income countries (LICs) to export food.

Draw a list of reasons why it is good for consumers of high income countries (HICs) to import cheap produce.



Carbon Dioxide Emissions Links to Global Warming

Over the past 150 years, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased along with the average global temperature. One way that carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere is through the burning of fossil fuels such as diesel and petrol in vehicles. The further food has to travel to get to your plate results in more carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. It absorbs heat energy and stops it escaping from the earth's atmosphere. With more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, more heat energy is absorbed and the earth becomes hotter, which results in global warming.

Effects of Global Warming

Changes in the earth's atmosphere due to global warming can result in:

- a change to global weather patterns;
- floods in some areas and drought in others;
- melting polar ice caps;
- sea levels rising and causing more coastal erosion;
- flooding of low-lying land beyond the coast.



Your task



1. Choose some of the foods that you really like, and make a list of them. Choose ten.
2. Find out where each food item comes from.
3. Either print or draw the world map and plot the foods on to the map

OR

4. Make a table showing the food, the country that it comes from and the distance of the country from the UK.

Online research will help with this!



Finally...

How do you think emissions and food miles could be reduced?

What is your own opinion on the debate? Give reasons for your answer.





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