



Lesson: Interdependence

National Curriculum Learning Objectives:

1. Make contributions relevant to the topic and take turns in discussion

(Eng1 3a)

2. Create, adapt and sustain different roles, individually and in groups

(Eng1 4a)

3. Break down a more complex problem or calculation into simpler steps before attempting a solution; identify the information needed to carry out the tasks

(Maths 1b)

4. Plan, use and adapt strategies, tactics and compositional ideas for individual, pair, small-group and small-team activities

(PE 2a)

5. To talk and write about their opinions, and explain their views, on issues that affect themselves and society

(PSHE 1a)

6. To recognise their worth as individuals by identifying positive things about themselves and their achievements, seeing their mistakes, making amends and setting personal goals

(PSHE 1b)

Description

The aim of this lesson is to understand the term interdependence and to learn how and why our world is interdependent.

Children will be asked to think about their ideal job. They will then debate and discuss which jobs they think are more important.

Pupils will then participate in an activity showing supply chain management as they trace the journey of a potato from a farm to a supermarket.

Suggested time:

1 hr 45 minutes

Resources

[Interdependence Story](#)

[Video clip on block printing](#)

[Job Descriptions](#)

A Potato

New Words:

Interdependence

Trust

Suggested time: 15 minutes

Write the word 'Interdependence' on the whiteboard in giant letters, then ask a child to read out the [Interdependence Story](#).

(NB: If you want the children to understand block printing (which is referenced in the story) further you can show them a video on it, ([Video clip on block printing](#).)

Question time!

Q: What does interdependence mean? (Provide a definition 'Interdependence: relating to two or more people or things that are dependent and rely upon each other.'

Q: How is interdependence shown in this story?

Step 2:

Suggested time: 15 minutes

Clear a section of the classroom.

Put children into groups of 5 (or any other reasonable number).

Each group asked to create a balance in which all group members are interdependent on one another. (For example they could stand in a circle on one leg and hold onto the person next to them)

Ensure children understand that by leaning on each other and putting all their weight on a partner, they are **trusting** that person. Equally, all the children within the balance are **interdependent** on one another and the balance would fall if all the children do not uphold their part.

Similarly, all the people within a work team are interdependent on one another and the business would fail if each person did not all fulfil their role.

Question time!

Q: How is trust crucial to successful teamwork and interdependence?

Interdependence Activity - Supply chain management

Suggested time: 45 minutes

NB: This activity requires:

One potato cut up into pieces for the entire class.

One large piece of paper and one pencil per group.

Step 3

Show children the potato.

Explain that potatoes are one of the main vegetables grown and eaten in India.

Divide children into groups of five and explain to them that each group will work together to make sure that the potato reaches the supermarkets.

Each member of the group to pick a “job” and the teacher can read out the individual [job descriptions](#).

Each group is given a large piece of paper and only one pen. Explain to the children that everyone must use the pen at least once so that all children contribute to the discussion.

Explain that the group has 40p of wages to be shared out between the 5 jobs for each potato that reaches the supermarket.

Children to work out what proportion of the 40p each job role will receive and why.

Children to be given time to discuss their ideas and finalise who will receive which proportion of the 40p.

Children to feedback their decisions and justifications to the class.

Step 4

Suggested time: 30 minutes

Question time!

Q: Which is the most important job in the potato supply chain and why?

Children to discuss with their partners and then to feedback to the rest of the class.

Class teacher to then explain that our world is **interdependent**.

Repeat definition: *‘Interdependence: relating to two or more people or things that are dependent and rely upon each other.’*

Class teacher to relate this to a real world context by asking the following questions:

Q: Who do you think is the most important person in our school?

Children are likely to say the head teacher or teachers etc. Class teacher to then further the children’s thinking:

Q: Who else do you think we need for our school to function?

A. Pupils!

Explain that our school needs them as much as they need us. We are interdependent and rely upon each other; otherwise there would be no school!

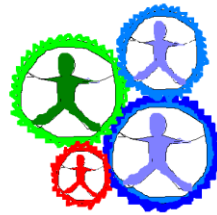
Question time!

Q: If the potato packer decided to take a walk instead of packer up the potato: What would happen?

Q: If the lorry driver wanted to admire the scenery and decided to take a longer route to deliver the potatoes: What would happen?

Explain that quite rightly the groups may have given the farmer more money as s/he has a bigger responsibility and works longer hours however without the potato packer he would not be able to do his job.

Show children the following image of a cog in a wheel:



Explain that in order to be successful in business and work effectively within a team everyone within your team becomes a crucial 'cog in a wheel' that is relied upon to do a good job.

Alongside interdependence there must be trust. All employees must trust the people within their teams to do a good job. Without trust a team would fail!

Fundraise with Enterprise 4 Change!

Block printing. The children can use printing blocks to make their own art prints, either on clothes (skirts, t-shirts) or on paper. These can either be sold to parents and other children in an after school sale, or made into an art exhibition which charges a small fee for entry. In this way the children can be creative and support the children in Mumbai who inspired their art!

Materials needed: Block prints, paint/ink and materials to print on (Clothing/paper), cheap frames (for art exhibition).

For more fundraising ideas click [here!](#)

