



DECEMBER Connection

Definition:

A relationship linking people or things

Why is it important?

Increasing access to faster and cheaper internet and transport means humans are more globally connected than ever before.

As a result, our actions often impact people we have not met, or places we have not been, in ways we do not realise.

Learning about our connections helps us to ensure our actions impact others positively.

Class activity - Map out a global web of human connections:

Students stand spread out across the room, each representing a different character in the story below. The student representing 'a boy' holds a ball of string and reads sentence 1. Holding the loose end of the string they then pass the ball to the 'The shop keeper', who then reads sentence 2. As this continues the

string creates a web representing the global connections between the characters.

The story:

1. **A boy** goes to a shop to buy a t-shirt and chooses one made of Fairtrade cotton.
2. **The shop keeper** is now selling more Fairtrade T-shirts than non-Fairtrade T-shirts, so replaces her order of non-Fairtrade T-shirts with Fairtrade ones.
3. **The Fairtrade cotton company** uses the money from these extra orders to start working with 10 more farmers who were not being treated or paid fairly by their employer.
4. **The 10 farmers** can afford to send their children to school now that they are paid fairly.
5. **One of these children** studies hard at school and becomes a scientist, she discovers a cure for a disease that becomes used around the world, and saves millions of lives.
6. **A father** of a family is saved by this cure and is able to go back to work, meaning his family are no longer forced to do illegal logging to pay for food.
7. **A monkey species** is saved from extinction because the forest is no longer being destroyed.
8. **The forest** grows as these monkeys spread the trees seeds by eating their fruits, and more CO2 is absorbed.

Now try creating your own story and web of impacts. Try to make entirely negative and one of entirely positive.

Make a change:

Trade is just one way our lives are globally connected. Can you think of any others? Think of one **personal** action, one action your **local** community could take, and one action the **global** community take, to ensure we positively impact others through our global connections.