

Child Labour

Child labour means work that deprives children of their childhood and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It is work that is dangerous and interferes with a child's education.

It is estimated that 246 million children around the world are engaged in child labour. Nearly 70% of them (171 million) work in dangerous conditions such as mines, chemicals or machinery.

Many children work on farms that produce consumer products such as cocoa, coffee, cotton, rubber and other crops. 20 million child workers are employed in factories that make garments, carpets, toys, matches and hand-rolled cigarettes.

Only one out of five children involved in child labour is paid for the work that they do.

Sometimes parents of families will make their children work because they are unable to look after their family with the money from their own job

Children who grew up working are more likely to not have finished primary school or gone on to high school.

Young people who had to work as children (up to the age of 15) are much more likely to have a low-paid job when they're older.

Every year children are severely injured or killed working in unsafe environments.

"They wake up at three in the morning and work until about evening ...They complain of pain, but what can they do?"

The kids are here to make a living. They bear all the pain to do all the work.”

Making bricks

One of the jobs that children around the world are forced in to is working in illegal factories making bricks. In 2014, around 1.7million children from the age of five were working in these factories in Pakistan. A report in 2016 showed that children in Afghanistan were beginning work at 4 a.m. and not finishing until after sunset. Children work in these factories for up to fourteen hours a day with little food, poor sanitary facilities and little pay.

Activity

You will be building bricks out of a cuboid net and decorating them with symbols, words, patterns and pictures that express your feelings about child labour. As a class, you will build a structure out of all your bricks that tells a powerful message about child labour today.

Before you build and decorate your brick, have a discussion in small groups about your design ideas.

You could think about:

- What do you want to tell people about through your artwork?
- Are there particular colours you would like to use?
- Are there particular words you would like to use?
- Are there any symbols you would like to use?
- Would you like to do more research to find out

about child labour?

- What images come to mind when you read about children working in the brick factories?

- How is your life different from the children working in the brick factories?

- Is there anything that can be done to help these children?

Red is a colour sometimes associated with anger. Are you angry about this issue?

Blue is a colour sometimes associated with sadness. Are you sad about this issue?

Green is a colour sometimes associated with money. Do you think money is part of the problem?

Yellow is a colour sometimes associated with happiness. Is there something we can do to help these children?



Doves are often a symbol of peace. Are the places where children are forced into child labour peaceful ones?

You could think about different signs and how to get your message across.

You could think about what these children are missing from their childhoods.