

# Classroom activities

USPG Harvest cross-curricular classroom activities for primary schools

## Activity 4: Investigation into coffee-growing

Curriculum links: Geography, English, PSHE, Art and Design

### Facts:

- There are more than 60 varieties of coffee
- Approximately 20 million people work in the coffee industry worldwide
- Coffee is grown in 70 different countries of the world
- A good coffee tree can produce up to 1kg of raw coffee per year
- In contrast to what most people think, coffee does not grow in plain brown beans, but in red berries carrying green beans (two beans per berry)

**History:** It is not known who first had the idea of brewing a drink from coffee. However, coffee drinking has been known in the Middle East since ancient times. Rhazes, an Arabic doctor, (approximately 900BC) mentions coffee in his writing.

**Coffee growing:** Coffee seeds are sown one to two centimetres deep in specially constructed beds. After five to eight weeks the tiny plants reach the surface. Six months later the young plants are 30 to 50 cm tall.

**Harvesting:** Around nine months after the flowers appear, the berries are ripe and can be harvested. Harvesting is mainly carried out by hand. After harvesting, coffee beans are washed, dried, hulled, and sorted. The beans are then measured into sacks of a standard size (usually 60 kg), ready for transporting around the world.

**Research task:** Use the Internet to find out about how coffee is grown and processed. Write your own report about what you find out. Add illustrations or find URL links to relevant images.