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# **COMPREHENSION TASK- QUESTIONS**

## **A LETTER FROM THE PEOPLE WHO GROW THE TEA YOU DRINK**

**Read the letter carefully, then answer the following questions:**

### **Understanding the letter**

1. Who wrote the letter and who is it addressed to?
2. What are some of the positive things that tea can bring to communities in Kenya?
3. What challenges are the tea farmers and workers facing? List at least three.
4. What is meant by a 'living wage'? Why is it important?
5. How is climate change affecting tea farming in Kenya?

### **Thinking About Fairtrade**

6. What is Fairtrade, and how does it relate to the farmers who wrote this letter?
7. Why do the farmers believe UK tea drinkers and businesses have the power to help?
8. What actions are the farmers asking UK businesses and the government to take?
9. What does the letter suggest about the connection between tea drinkers and tea growers?

### **Reflect and discuss**

10. Do you think it's fair that the people who grow tea often don't earn enough to support their families? Why or why not?
11. What can you do as a consumer to support Fairtrade and farmers like those in Kenya?
12. Write a message to the Government asking them to support the 'Brew it Fair' campaign and make fairer laws that protects tea farmers and workers, brings everyone together to fix problems in the tea industry, and keeps promises to help them fight climate change.

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# COMPREHENSION TASK - ANSWERS

## Understanding the letter

### **1. Who wrote the letter and who is it addressed to?**

The letter was written by over 250 Kenyan tea farmers and workers. It is addressed to tea drinkers, tea businesses, and the government in the UK.

### **2. What are some of the positive things that tea can bring to communities in Kenya?**

Tea can help farmers earn a decent living, educate their children, provide school transport, protect the environment, and improve community health through access to clean water and medicine.

### **3. What challenges are the tea farmers and workers facing? List at least three.**

- Low and falling prices for tea
- Rising costs of living and farming
- Poor living conditions and lack of health and safety protections
- Unequal power for women
- Climate change impacts like flooding, drought, and plant diseases

### **4. What is meant by a 'living wage'? Why is it important?**

A living wage is the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet their basic needs. It is important because many tea workers earn below this level and struggle to support their families.

### **5. How is climate change affecting tea farming in Kenya?**

Climate change is making it harder to grow tea due to increased risks of flooding, drought, and plant diseases. By 2050, suitable conditions for tea farming in Kenya are expected to decrease by a quarter.

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## COMPREHENSION TASK - ANSWERS

### Thinking About Fairtrade

#### **6. What is Fairtrade, and how does it relate to the farmers who wrote this letter?**

Fairtrade is a global movement working with over 2 million farmers and workers in 68 countries to challenge unfair trade systems and support people in securing a decent living, strengthening their communities, and protecting the planet.

By uniting farmers, consumers, brands, and communities, Fairtrade pushes for equity, fair pay, and respectful working conditions—so producers can take control of their futures and thrive, not just survive.

The farmers who wrote the letter are part of the Fairtrade network and are advocating for support through Fairtrade principles.

#### **7. Why do the farmers believe UK tea drinkers and businesses have the power to help?**

Because the UK is a major consumer of tea, and its businesses and government can influence trade practices, pricing, and policies that affect the livelihoods of tea growers.

#### **8. What actions are the farmers asking UK businesses and the government to take?**

They are asking them to protect human rights, support climate change adaptation, and work together for a better future for tea growers and workers.

#### **9. What does the letter suggest about the connection between tea drinkers and tea growers?**

It highlights that both are part of the same global food system. When growers struggle, the quality and availability of tea for drinkers may also be affected.

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## COMPREHENSION TASK - ANSWERS

### Reflect and discuss

**10. Do you think it's fair that the people who grow tea often don't earn enough to support their families? Why or why not?**

(Open-ended – pupils should reflect and explain their reasoning.)

**11. What can you do as a consumer to support Fairtrade and farmers like those in Kenya?**

Raise awareness, buy Fairtrade certified tea, support ethical brands, and encourage others to do the same.

**12. Write a message to the Government asking them to support the 'Brew it Fair' campaign and make fairer laws that protects tea farmers and workers, brings everyone together to fix problems in the tea industry, and keeps promises to help them fight climate change.**

(Open-ended)