
A LETTER FROM THE TEA FARMERS IN KENYA

Read the simplified version of the letter from Kenyan tea farmers and workers, then answer the questions below.

A friendly letter from tea farmers in Kenya

Dear tea drinkers, shops, and leaders in the UK,

We are the people in Kenya who grow and pick the tea you drink. We want to tell you about our lives. Growing tea is important to us because it helps us take care of our families. With the money we earn, we can feed our children, send them to school safely, and keep our villages healthy and clean.

But things are getting harder for us. The money we get for our tea is going down, while everything else costs more and more. Sometimes, we do not get enough to buy what our families need. Our homes are not always safe, and it is hard to get good water and medicine. Also, the weather is changing—sometimes it rains too much or too little, and the plants get sick more often. By the time you are grown up, it might be much harder to grow tea here.

We know you love tea, and we are happy to grow it for you. We hope you will support us by making choices that are fair. When you choose Fairtrade tea, it means we get a better price and can look after our families and the earth. If you learn about where your tea comes from and ask for fairness, you can help us a lot!

Together, we can make things better for everyone.

Your friends,

The tea farmers and workers of Kenya

A LETTER FROM THE TEA FARMERS: COMPREHENSION & REFLECTION TASK

Read the letter, then answer the questions:

Understanding the letter

1. Who wrote this letter? Who did they send it to?
2. How does growing tea help the farmers and their families?
3. What problems are the tea farmers having? Name two.
4. Why is it important that farmers earn enough money?
5. How is the weather making tea farming harder?

Thinking about Fairtrade

6. What does Fairtrade mean, and how does it work with these farmers?
7. How can people who drink tea in the UK help the farmers?
8. What do the farmers want shops and leaders to do?
9. How are tea drinkers and tea growers connected?

Reflect and discuss

10. Do you think it's fair that the tea growers sometimes don't get enough money? Why or why not?
11. What can you do at home or school to help farmers like those in Kenya?
12. If you could send a letter back to the farmers, what would you say?

A LETTER FROM THE TEA FARMERS: COMPREHENSION & REFLECTION TASK- ANSWERS

Understanding the letter

1. Who wrote this letter? Who did they send it to?

The letter was written by tea farmers and workers in Kenya. They sent it to tea drinkers, shops, and leaders in the UK.

2. How does growing tea help the farmers and their families?

Growing tea provides income for the farmers, which they use to buy food, send their children to school, and keep their villages healthy and clean.

3. What problems are the tea farmers having? Name two.

The farmers are receiving less money for their tea while the cost of living is going up, and they are facing challenges from changing weather, such as too much or too little rain and plant diseases.

4. Why is it important that farmers earn enough money?

If farmers earn enough money, they can support their families, provide education for their children, and live in safe, healthy conditions.

5. How is the weather making tea farming harder?

The weather is less predictable, with either too much or too little rain, and this, along with increased plant diseases, makes it more difficult to grow healthy tea plants.

A LETTER FROM THE TEA FARMERS: COMPREHENSION & REFLECTION TASK

Thinking about Fairtrade

6. What does Fairtrade mean, and how does it work with these farmers?

Fairtrade ensures farmers get a fair price for their products. With Fairtrade, these farmers can earn more for their tea, which helps them care for their families and communities.

7. How can people who drink tea in the UK help the farmers?

They can choose to buy Fairtrade tea, learn about where their tea comes from, and ask shops to offer fairly traded products.

8. What do the farmers want shops and leaders to do?

The farmers want shops and leaders to support Fairtrade, offer fairly traded tea, and make decisions that help farmers receive fair prices and live better lives.

9. How are tea drinkers and tea growers connected?

Tea drinkers rely on the growers for their tea, and the growers depend on tea drinkers to buy their products. Choices made by consumers can directly impact the lives of the farmers.

A LETTER FROM THE TEA FARMERS: COMPREHENSION & REFLECTION TASK

Reflect and discuss

10. Do you think it's fair that the tea growers sometimes don't get enough money? Why or why not?

No, it isn't fair because the farmers work hard and should be able to provide for their families. Everyone deserves to be paid fairly for their work.

11. What can you do at home or school to help farmers like those in Kenya?

At home or school, you can ask for and choose Fairtrade products, educate others about Fairtrade, or organize events to raise awareness.

12. If you could send a letter back to the farmers, what would you say?

I would thank them for their hard work and let them know that I will try to buy Fairtrade tea to help support them and their families.