

Information about Coconut Day

Mercy in Action has designed a series of Fact Sheets and Lesson Plans to help teach children about life in the Philippines.

The objectives of each lesson are:

- To learn about the Philippines and draw comparisons with England
- To learn about the lives of Filipino children and draw comparisons with the lives of English children
- To learn about a developing economy

Through these lessons, Mercy in Action hopes to:

- Raise awareness of the charity's work
- Raise money for children and families living in poverty in the Philippines

The pack is made up of the following sections and lesson plans:

Section One:

- Fact sheet on the work of Mercy in Action in Cebu
- Fact sheet on the Philippines
- Fact sheet on the Coconut

Section Two:

- Fact finding quiz for KS2
- True and False quiz and answer sheet
- Dictionary for words in Filipino stories
- Glossary

Lesson Plans:

1. **Art/Geography** – Design a flag
2. **Art/DT** – Shelter building, product design
3. **Art/DT** – How to make a plastic or paper kite
4. **Music and Movement** – Make a shaker, learn a traditional Filipino ‘Tinikling’ dance and song, ‘Buhay Kubo’
5. **PSHE/Literacy** – A day in the life of a street child

This Mercy in Action School Resources Pack contains enough background information and lesson plans to hold a ‘Filipino Day’ at school. The children can immerse themselves in another culture for the day and learn how different life is for a poor street child. They will see what they eat, what toys they make and play with and learn a traditional song in the Filipino language. They will then try to imagine that they are a child in Cebu, a city in the Philippines, and write about their day.

Alternatively, you can decide which lessons you would like to use, and what order to do them in. All lesson plans are available to be downloaded from our website. There is also a Power Point presentation to accompany this pack that can also be downloaded from our website. It is indicated in the pack which parts have corresponding Power Point slides.

If you choose to do the full ‘Filipino Day’ you could call your learning/fundraising day ‘Coconut Day’ as this will provoke interest. The coconut is one of the main exports of the Philippines and the coconut tree is known by the Filipinos as the Tree of Life as they use every part of it. One of the lesson plans contains a fact sheet about the coconut and you could ask your children to choose a coconut-based activity in advance of the day.

We suggest that you start the day by showing the Mercy in Action DVD to give some background and to also explain that the day is about two things: learning about a different culture and fundraising for children less fortunate than ourselves. You may want to show the DVD a couple of weeks before Coconut Day and ask the children to design a poster to promote the day in advance.

If your school is close to Bath or Milton Keynes, the Mercy in Action team would happily come and do an assembly at your school in the morning or at the end of the day if you felt this was more appropriate. We also have a number of props available that will help illustrate the Filipino lifestyle, including traditional costumes and items in everyday use such as a bed mat and broom. Whenever props, books or resources are mentioned in the pack, please be aware these are only available to schools near Bath or Milton Keynes.

The lesson plans can be taken in any order but perhaps the literacy lesson should take place towards the end of the day so that the children feel they have learnt enough to write about. We have some true stories of children who are sponsored by Mercy in Action which you may want to read to the class. These stories illustrate how hard life can be for poor children in the Philippines and will certainly be thought-provoking. You could complete the day by reading the younger children some traditional folk-tales from the Philippines. We have a number of story books from the Philippines which are suitable for primary aged children – they are written in one of the Filipino languages and also contain a translation but some of them illustrate well the cultural differences between the Philippines and the UK. Many of the translations include traditional Filipino words, so the children will learn some of the Filipino language – crib sheets are provided to help out with translation!

Preparations

- Show the Mercy in Action DVD in assembly so that the children know why we are fundraising.
- Ask children to design a poster promoting Coconut Day
- Ask the children to bring in plastic bags, string, cardboard boxes, sticks, used drink cartons, plastic bottles to be used in the art/DT challenges
- Decide on your fundraising method
- Ask children to bring in tins/packets of their favourite food to be donated to Mercy in Action. This food will be incorporated into Christmas shoeboxes to be sent to the Philippines

In addition, each lesson plan has a list of resources that you will need on the day.

Depending on your location, Mercy in Action provide aprons, lunch boxes and shopping bags made from recycled drink cartons to inspire the children's creativity.

Suggestions

You could ask the children to come to school dressed in the colours of the Filipino flag (red, white and blue) or to make a sun badge and wear it for the day. We suggest that each child brings in a donation of £2 for the day and then perhaps the day could end with a cake sale to raise money for MiA, or you may want to undertake your own fundraising ideas.

Resources that can be borrowed from Mercy in Action:

Available to all schools:

- Mercy in Action DVD
- Colouring sheets for younger children
- Recording of Buhay Kubo – Traditional Filipino song

We're afraid we can only provide the following to schools close to Bath or Milton Keynes (subject to availability):

- Folk Tales from the Philippines
- Native costumes
- Fans and bamboo poles for the Filipino dance
- Raffia hat and bed mat
- Traditional broom
- Coconut
- Coconut floor polisher
- Plastic bag kite
- Raffia rice dishes
- Coconut bowls



Mercy in Action's Directors, John and Allison Todd,
with some of the street children we work with