

Linklaters Debate Challenge

Interesting fact: In the UK cows produce more greenhouse gases than cars

Have you heard of... Foot and Mouth Disease? BSE?

Moral question:
Is it immoral to eat animals?

Research task: Is meat good or bad for your health?

The economy: Are farmers important to the economy? What would they do if we all became vegetarians?



Remember:
Producing and transporting meat takes a lot of carbon. Importing food uses 1.6 billion litres of oil a year, releasing 18 million tonne of carbon.

Did you know? In 2004–05 around 1.2 million hectares of soya (5% of the national total) was planted in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest. 80% of the world's soya production is fed to the livestock industry. Meat reared on rainforest soya finds its way onto supermarket shelves and fast food counters across Europe.

Issue: Overfishing is a worry today. Some fish are nearly extinct because we have caught too many to eat.

Something to think about? Are animals always treated well on farms? Would they be better in the wild? Or would the farmers keep them for other products than meat?

What do you think? Do you eat meat? Do you like the taste? Is it in some of your favourite dishes and would you miss it if you had to give it up?

Remember: Food can be an important part of culture. Can you think of any meat dishes that are important to the culture of countries or religions?

Remember to use your Project Genie resources to find out more about the environment.

Famous view: Paul McCartney, himself a vegetarian, said in april 2008: "The biggest change anyone could make in their own lifestyle would be to become vegetarian. I would urge everyone to think about taking this simple step to help our precious environment and save it for the children of the future."

