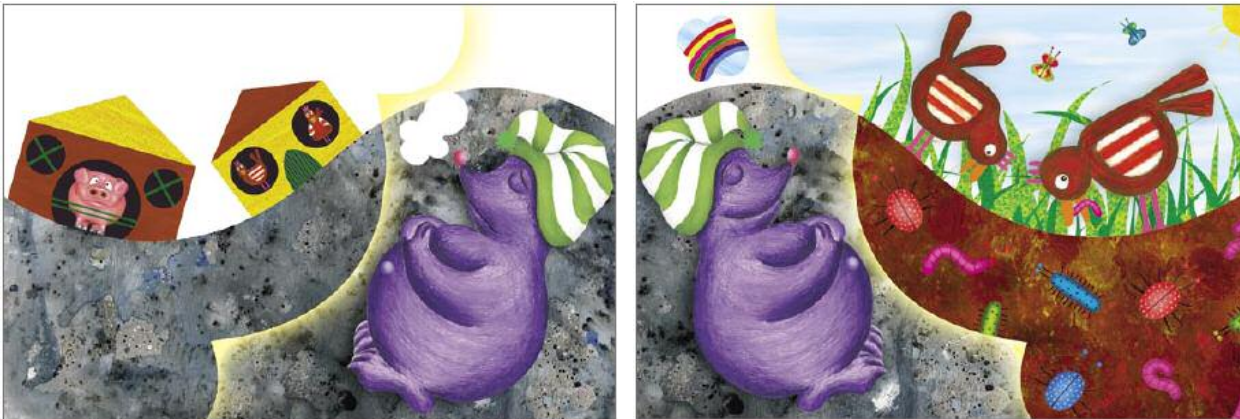


## Organic Farming Activity three :

### Healthy Animals - animal welfare



*'In this land factory barns were home to chickens and pigs never went outdoors, as it was cheaper to keep them inside.*

*'Mole dreamed of seeing free-range hens, scratching in the soil for bugs and grubs, and pigs rooting and wallowing.'*

#### Curriculum Links

PSHE and Citizenship: 1a, 2a, 2d, 5a, 5d

Geography 1d, 2c, 3g, 4b, 5a

Science S2: 1a, 1c, 2b, 5a

PSHE 1a, 2a, 2d,

#### Objectives

- To understand the difference between intensive and non-intensive animal farming.
- To consider the rights of farm animals
- To consider how the choices that people make about buying and eating certain food can have an impact on animal welfare

#### Resources

1. TEACHING RESOURCE 5: "Images of farming"  
([www.farmtrails.org.uk/fflcurrpack/tr\\_sheet5.htm](http://www.farmtrails.org.uk/fflcurrpack/tr_sheet5.htm)). Photo cards of animals.
2. ACTIVITY SHEET 5: "Animal Charter"  
([www.farmtrails.org.uk/fflcurrpack/as\\_sheet5.htm](http://www.farmtrails.org.uk/fflcurrpack/as_sheet5.htm)).
3. TEACHING RESOURCE 6: "How the other half live"  
([www.farmtrails.org.uk/fflcurrpack/tr\\_sheet6.htm](http://www.farmtrails.org.uk/fflcurrpack/tr_sheet6.htm)).
4. Range of egg boxes: Barn eggs, Free range, Organic

#### What to do

Show the pupils the photo card with the battery hens and the sow in a farrowing crate. Ask them questions about it. For example: Why do they think the animals are kept in cages? Have they ever seen hens or pigs on a farm? Did they live in the same conditions? Compare with the photo card of free range hens and pigs. What do the children think about the animals on this card?

After looking at the pictures, give the children the sheet entitled “How the other half live” in small groups. Ask them to read the information. Explain that they are going to draw up a charter for animals. Discuss the idea of a children’s charter by way of introduction. What are their rights; somewhere comfortable to sleep at night, good food, an education? They should choose at least six statements for their charter and write them on Activity Sheet 6 “Animal Charter”.

The following points are based on the Soil Association’s organic standards and may be a useful reference. Animals should:

- Always have free-range access to pasture
- Have natural light and ventilation when housed
- Have enough space to move around
- Be fed a natural diet and clean water
- Be allowed to grow at a natural rate
- Have comfortable bedding
- To be given medicine only when they need it, and not ‘routinely’

Organic farms have strict welfare standards that need to be met in order to sell the produce as organic. These are inspected every year by the Soil Association who awards its organic symbol to farms who meet the standards. Many non-organic farms have high animal welfare standards as well but by looking for the Soil Association symbol, you know animals have been kept to the highest welfare standards in the view of Compassion in World Farming.

Children should present their charters to the other groups. They could then each produce a final version, and the best ones could be chosen for a display in the school hall.

### **Examining eggs**

Show the children a selection of egg boxes: Farm Fresh eggs - laid by battery hens; Barn eggs - from birds crowded together indoors in percherries; Free Range eggs - these birds have more space and access to the outdoors through holes in their huts; Organic eggs – these birds have the most space, small flock sizes and free access to the outdoors.

Children can discuss what they think the labels mean? Do they think any of the terms are misleading? Do they think it is worth paying more for eggs laid by hens which have a better quality of life?

### **Approximate prices:**

Farm fresh eggs: £0.69p

Barn eggs: £0.78p

Free range eggs: £1.19p

Organic eggs: £1.59p

### **Further activities**

You could give the children an understanding of what confinement might feel like. Make a 2m<sup>2</sup> pen using ropes and posts or chairs. Fit in as many children as possible and then ask them to pretend to be battery farm chickens (you could explain that many battery farm hens only have as much floor space as a piece of A4 paper). How would they feel about spending all day like that? What would the problems be? This activity could be done during a PE lesson, as you could then let the pupils run around as organic chickens!

Talking about animal welfare can be a very emotive subject, and it is important to remember that some children may be very sensitive about the issue. It may be worth sending a note home to let parents know you have discussed this issue.