



1

This is Pablo. He used to be an ordinary banana, just like all the other bananas that grow in this banana farm, in a hot country far away.

► **ACTIVITY**

Draw the children's attention to the colour of the bananas. Did they know growing bananas are green and not yellow?

The country Pablo is from is Colombia.



2

Pablo was happy being looked after by the banana farmers.

He was watered every day...

...given special food to help him grow...

...and kept safe from nasty bugs.

► **ACTIVITY**

Can the children spot the birds hidden in this picture?



Sad

3

But one day he noticed the farmers didn't look happy. He asked Paloma the farmer why.

'We work very hard', Paloma told him. 'There are lots of bananas to look after but we don't get enough money for our work. It means we can't buy things like medicine when we're ill, or buy enough food to eat. This makes us very sad.'

► **ACTIVITY**

Draw the children's attention to what Paloma and her family are eating. You can explain that banana farmers can't always afford a lot of food and can only afford basic food like rice and beans. Rice and beans are good to eat, but it means that they have this all the time and do not have food like meat, fish and other vegetables to make sure they have a good and healthy diet. What do the children think about just having rice and beans every day?





# Fair

4

'That's not fair!' cried Pablo. He felt as sad as Paloma and knew he had to HELP the farmers. He didn't just want to be a banana; he wanted to be a SUPER banana. 'I'm going to do something about this!' said Pablo.

Paloma smiled. 'Maybe you can do a super thing for us farmers. Tell the people who buy our bananas how hard we work. Tell them we don't get enough money to buy the things we need. Tell them all this and maybe, just maybe, things will change.'

#### ▶ ACTIVITY

You can highlight to children how Pablo becomes 'super' once he feels empathy for Paloma the farmer and decides he wants to help. Can they think of anyone or anything they would like to help? Does it feel good to help others?



5

Pablo went back to his bunch of bananas and told them why all the farmers were sad.

‘We want to help too!’ they shouted.

So the bananas hatched a daring plan and waited for the day they would be picked and taken across the world to be sold in shops. And that day soon arrived...

They were picked and washed by the farmers...

...loaded onto a lorry that drove all the way to the sea...

...and sailed for many days and nights on a big ship.

► **ACTIVITY**

A Banana Journey PowerPoint at [schools.fairtrade.org.uk/pablo](https://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/pablo) can be used to help illustrate the journey of bananas from Colombia to the UK.



6

After their exciting journey they arrived at a seaport and were driven by lorry to a large supermarket. Pablo took a deep breath. 'Ok fellow bananas, we have a super job to do. Are you ready?'

'YES!' shouted all the bananas.

Pablo and his bunch of bananas got to work. They told the shopkeepers they wouldn't let anyone buy them until their farmers were given a fair amount of money for their hard work. They told everyone who came into the shop how sad the farmers are, how hard they work and how they would be happy again if they were paid fairly.

► **ACTIVITY**

Ask children to remind you what Pablo and his bunch of bananas are doing to help.





7

In the end, the shopkeepers decided to take action and made sure the farmers were given a fair amount of money for their work. This meant Paloma's farm became a Fairtrade banana farm.

'Hooray!' cried all the bananas.

'Hurrah!' shouted the banana farmers.

► **ACTIVITY**

Ask the children to compare the food the farmers are eating in this card with card 3, and spot the different foods they are able to afford here.



# Happy

8

Pablo and his bunch of bananas all received a Fairtrade sticker and Pablo became a famous super banana, making it his mission to help other banana farmers across the world.

One morning while Pablo was waxing his yellow suit, he heard the postman arrive. It was a postcard from a happy, smiling Paloma. It simply said:

*'Thank you Pablo the Super Banana and friends!'*

#### **Pablo the Super Banana's Song**

Pablo banana is super cool  
Pablo banana is nobody's fool  
He's one of a kind, a caring fruit  
He wears a waxy yellow suit

Hear the farmers shout and rave:  
What a difference it has made  
Now our bananas are Fairtrade  
Hip hip hooray!

Pablo banana is super cool  
Pablo banana is nobody's fool  
He's one of a kind, a caring fruit  
He wears a waxy yellow suit

#### **▶ ACTIVITY 1**

You can make up actions for the song with your children. The tune can be sung to the tune of 'The Wheels on the Bus' or be a chant to a basic drumbeat where children can drum the floor with their hands.

#### **▶ ACTIVITY 2**

Children can make postcards like Paloma's with their parents/ carers in the home activity booklet, which you can give to children to take home.