

Get busy on the Virtual Farm Walk

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LEAF Virtual Farm Walk – African Fields – Green Bean Field – Be Bean Farmers

Lesson Plan – Be Bean Farmers

Objectives

To gain an understanding of the care and attention that is required to supply high quality food to consumers in the UK.

Resources

- * Green Bean section of the African Field in the LEAF Virtual Farm Walk www.virtualfarmwalk.org
- * Photocopies of the outlines of green beans (available at end of this document)
- * Scissors and green colouring crayons/pens/paint for each group.

Activity

- 1. Watch and listen**
Children watch and listen to the Green Bean section of the African Field in the LEAF Virtual Farm Walk.
- 2. Let's be bean farmers (10 minutes)**
Divide the class up into groups of 3 bean farmers.
Instruct the groups to colour in and then cut out the green beans as quickly and carefully as possible (the buyers reject any that are not straight, evenly-coloured and perfect)
Class 'produce beans' for ten minutes.
- 3. Selling beans**
Nominate one of the farmers to be the group leader (like Gitari in the Green Bean section on the Virtual Farm Walk). Gitari goes around the groups choosing the beans that are good enough for the community to sell.
He will only take the best.
Decide which group has been the best at producing beans.
- 4. Group discussion**
Drawing out the children's ideas on what it takes to be a good bean farmer in Kenya (see **next page**).

Notes

Discussion Topics

Notes

Good farming techniques include:

- * **Use lots of care.**
Draw out what this care means, for example: careful ground preparation to start, evenly spaced planting of seeds, regular and thorough checking for pests and diseases, use of biological methods to keep pest numbers low, careful choice and use of chemicals to treat a serious problem (but only if absolutely necessary).
- * **Take advice from green bean advisor** to reduce problems caused by insects or disease.
Having watched the Green Bean and Pineapple sections of the Virtual Farm Walk, you will have heard farmers talking about beneficial insects, and even using sunshine to control one particular pest.
- * **Employ lots of careful pickers** who only pick the beans that are ready, and do not damage the crop while they work in the field.

Ask the children to come up with benefits of growing beans for the UK

Some of the advantages to the community of growing beans include:

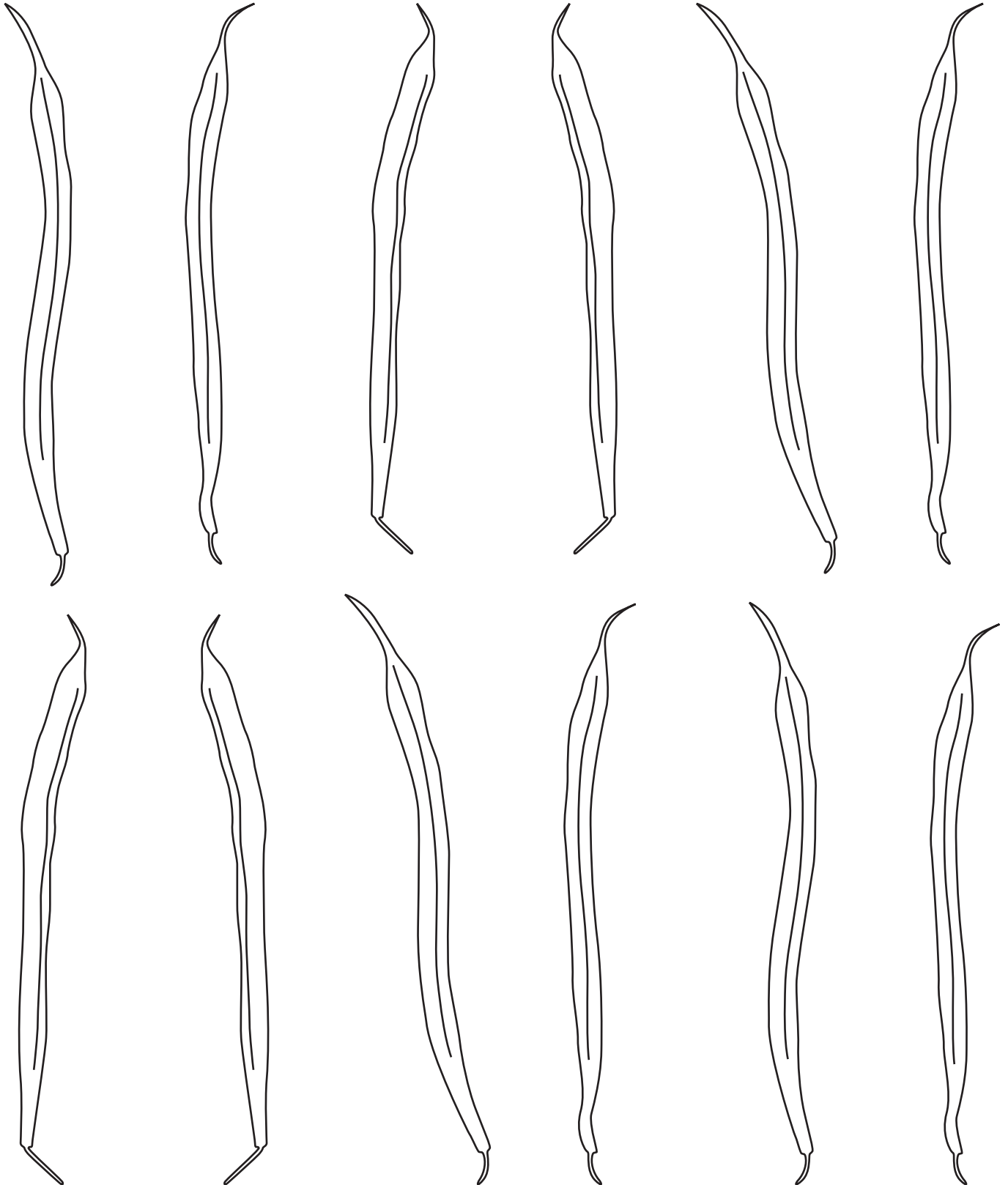
- * Jobs and money for people who pick and sort the beans.
- * The farmer earns more income from beans than from growing other crops.
- * The money can be used to build schools, or pay for health centres for the community.

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For "Be a bean farmer" activity sheet



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