

Objectives

1. To learn about a type of habitat [QCA Science 4b - Habitats]
2. Understand human & animal needs [QCA Citiz Unit 3 – Animals & us]
3. To appreciate diversity and other food cultures [QCA Citiz Unit 5 – Living in a diverse world]

New Words

Bushmeat
Cane Rat
Rainforest
Cameroon

Resources

- Teacher Information 1.0, 1.1, 1.2
 - Handout 1
 - Jungle Rescue animation
Cowforce.com
 - Fundraising ideas
 - Cane Rat Powerpoint
- Time: 10 minutes**

Starter

- Ask pupils in groups to make lists on a white board of all the animals that they eat on the left and those that they would never eat on the right.
- Get feedback and then talk to the pupils about what people do and don't eat in our culture and others, from **Teacher Information 1.0**. This could be used as a pairing activity.

Lesson

Discussion

Time: 15 minutes

- Use an Atlas or Google Earth to locate the rainforest in Cameroon, west Africa.
- *What do they know about rainforests? What kinds of animals live there? E.g. monkeys, chimpanzees, crocodiles, squirrels, parrots, bats and rats.*
- Read with the class the information about 'Bushmeat' from **Teacher Information 1.1** and watch the first part of the 'Jungle Rescue' animation on 'Four African Tales' from **Cowforce.com**
- Discuss some different ideas of how to protect the rainforest, the population of wild animals and still give people food to eat.
E.g. Employ game wardens, breed the animals in zoos, create a fenced National Park, give people other animals to eat, bring in food from another country.

Lesson

Practical activity

Time: 10 minutes

- Ask pupils in groups to come up with a few different solutions to this problem.
- They need to choose one idea that will help to conserve the animals that live in the rainforest and help to make sure that people have enough food and money. Use **Handout 1** and 'Jungle Rescue' for this.
- Their ideas must be realistic and they should ask themselves: *is it possible? is it expensive? and what are the positive and negative points about our idea?*

Lesson**Discussion****Time: 10 minutes**

- Go through the ideas from the groups, asking for positive and negative points about each idea.
- Explain to the class what Send a Cow is doing in Cameroon with Cane Rats from **Teacher Information 1.2** and by showing the rest of 'Jungle Rescue' and link back to the starter about new foods.
- *Do they think this is a good solution?*
- *Can they imagine eating a Cane Rat?*
- *Discuss the outcomes from Jungle Rescue. Who do they think the solution helps the most? And the least?*

Plenary**Time: 10 minutes**

- Link this with any fundraising for Send a Cow – see the rat related ideas at the end of this document. Go to www.sendacowgifts.org.uk if you wish to donate the amount of money it costs to buy a Cane Rat and pay for the training to look after them (£25).
- Remind pupils that this will conserve the rainforest, the wild animals and give people money and something to eat.

Extension**Time: 15 minutes**

- Ask the pupils to create their own Cane Rat recipes with different ways of eating rat.
- Pupils could research the other foods eaten in west Africa and create their own menu for a cafe in Cameroon – including Cane Rats.

Many people in the UK won't go without their Sunday roast
...or Saturday burger

Eating whale meat is banned in the UK
– have you ever caught anyone munching it?

In some versions of the Buddhist religion,
you are not allowed to eat onions, garlic or chives

Pigs are seen as unclean animals and are forbidden among
Muslims, Jews, and some Christians

In the UK, most people will eat fish
– even if it is only in a fishfinger!

In Norway you can order a whale steak if you're really hungry

You'll find onions in pasta and salads, on hot dogs
... and on people's breath in the UK

Most Hindus don't eat beef,
as the cow holds a sacred place in their society

The Kikuyu people of Kenya believe that it is wrong to eat fish
and won't touch them

The BLT sandwich is a favourite choice of many in the UK

Bush Meat in Cameroon

Many animals that live in the rainforests of Cameroon, including monkeys, chimpanzees, oranghutans, cane rats and wild pigs, are under threat. The threat is from people who are hunting too many of them as a way of getting food and making money – mainly selling them to people in towns and cities, where they are seen as the best tasting meat. Most people in Cameroon are very poor, half of the population survive on less than a pound a day, so hunting these animals can be a good way of making some much needed money. But it is also bringing the number of these animals down to worrying levels. Animals from the rainforest that are eaten like this are called ‘bush meat’ and the amount of them being killed has created a crisis. This was not a problem in the past, as people only used to hunt small numbers of these animals, but now there are new ways of hunting using guns and poison and too many people trying to hunt using traditional methods.

Apart from spears and arrows, one of the traditional ways of hunting bush meat is to set a ring of fire around a small hill, which makes the animals run up the hill away from the flames. The animals eventually have to break out of the ring of fire and are killed by people waiting on the edges. When so many people do this, it not only reduces the number of animals like monkeys and chimpanzees, but it also destroys the forest. The problem is so great that the government in Cameroon has brought in some new laws to protect the rainforest and ban these ways of hunting - but the people there are still poor and desperately need food and money to survive

What should they do?

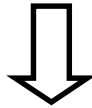
Names:

Handout 1

The problem is



Some ideas of what to do



Our chosen idea



How it will help protect wild animals and feed people

The charity Send a Cow is working with the people of Cameroon to help with this problem. But not by giving people cows – as people still want to eat bushmeat. Send a Cow are helping to get people out of poverty, protect wild animals *and* give Cameroonians the meat that they want. . . how? By giving poor families animals known as Cane Rats!

These rats aren't much like the UK rodent; they have been domesticated (tamed) from the wild and are clean, very fat and seen as a delicacy when served up on a plate. Families that receive Cane Rats are taught how to look after them and keep them in runs, breeding the rats to sell their meat or offspring at the markets. This way, people won't need to shoot, poison or chase animals from the forest, but can buy Cane Rat meat instead of a wild chimpanzee or a monkey - protecting the rainforest and allowing the wild animals to survive.

Cane Rat is also one of the most popular types of meat, being four times more expensive than beef. So the poor families that breed them will be making money, helping them to get out of poverty, feed their children and buy essential things like medicine. The families then 'pass on' the equivalent of what they were given, their first four baby cane rats, to another poor family – so the help will keep on multiplying!

Although the idea of eating these rats might not appeal to us, by giving them Send a Cow is able to make a real difference to poor families stuck in poverty, trying to survive and to endangered animals under threat in the rainforests of Cameroon.

RAT FACTS

Did you know?

Male rats are called bucks, females are does and babies are pups.

A group of rats is called a 'mischief of rats'.

Rats don't have thumbs, canine teeth or tonsils.

They do, however, have bellybuttons.

Rats have poor eyesight and can't see in colour,

. . . . they also can't burp!

THE GROSS GOBBLE!

Find a willing teacher and get your class to bring in foods that are edible, but ones that they think the teacher won't like – they could do their own food research first (e.g. *jellied eels, haggis, spotted dick, raw egg, winkles, anchovies, tripe, ox-tail, tongue* or horrible combinations like *marmite and ice-cream*). Get pupils to pay 50p to watch the teacher eat each food – the more disgusting the more expensive!

SILVER RAT

Mark out a giant rat shape in the school playground and ask pupils to find silver coins from home to fill the shape and make a huge silver rat in a day!

RAT SNACKS

Ask pupils to get sponsored to eat crunchy foods like a cane rat for a school day. That means chomping on things like celery, carrots, sweetcorn, peanuts, bean sprouts, apples and anything else that crunches – this could get a bit noisy.

CANE RAT RACE

Challenge other classes to a Rat Race! Choose the four fastest runners from each class, name them and make rat masks and tails and rat supporters' hats for the rest of the class in an Art lesson. Have a relay race between the teams, charging pupils 50p to watch the rats speed along the grass on all fours, passing on a small cane as a shuttle! Alternatively, make an obstacle course from games equipment and have a rat race around the course.

CATCH THE RAT

Hide ten card rat shapes with ratty names on around the school grounds. Get pupils to pay for a rat finder sheet with clues on where they are – the pupil who writes the names of all the rats first, wins and is given a ratty certificate.

HAVE A RAT RAP COMPETITION

Get your pupils writing their own rat themed raps about Send a Cow in Cameroon and have a performance where the audience pay 20p for each vote that they cast to see whose rat rap tops the pops.