

Worksheet 4 – Is slavery a thing of the past?

1. Read the article and match each paragraph (1-3) with the images you saw in the first activity.

Text 1

Slavery did not end when the slave trade was officially abolished in 1807. It continues to exist around the world in many different ways. For example, many people think that cotton is no longer grown using slaves. However, one of the world's largest cotton producing countries was, until very recently, still forcing children to work picking cotton. And, while this seems to have stopped now, adults in this country are still having to work unpaid or pay a large fine.

Text 2

It is not just the way that cotton is produced which can involve slavery. Many factories which produce clothing have such bad conditions that they are almost slave labour. Some workers are paid as little as 50 cents an hour, and factories often employ children. According to the International Labour Organisation, 170 million children are doing work which is unacceptable for their age. The cost of buying clothes is getting cheaper and cheaper, but who is paying the price?

Text 3

Food is another product which may involve slavery, especially chocolate. Cocoa for making chocolate is often grown by child slaves, some of whom have been stolen from their families. Other products which are often produced using slave labour include palm oil, diamonds, and shrimps. Consumers need to start asking more questions about where the products they buy come from, and exactly how they are produced.

2. Talk about the text with your partner. Did anything surprise or shock you?
3. Now work with a partner who read the text on worksheet 3. Tell each other about what you read.