Thirsty Farming

KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the effects of using chemicals in farming.
- Know how to build an argument for an important issue

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SUBJECT LINKS

EXPLORER CHALLENGE: Build an argument 'for and against' using chemicals in farming

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10 mins

EXPLORE

Read about the use of pesticides and fertilisers in farming. **Examine** this locally if possible. Do you know anyone who works in agriculture who you could ask about this?

Key questions to consider during this research:

- What are the effects of using these chemicals on the land, wildlife and humans?
- What is the effect on the food produced?
- Why are chemicals used in this way?
- What are the benefits to the economy and trade?

30 mins

Debate the arguments 'for and against' the use of chemicals in agriculture using the information you have found. You could use drama techniques such as 'Conscience Alley', hot seating or role play. Alternatively, **organise** a more formal debate, with one side for and the other against using chemicals.

WHAT YOU NEED

Conduct Research **(before class)**

Resource 2 (to support entire challenge)

Resource 4

Resource 1

ACTION

Present your learning visually as a '*For or Against Chemicals? You Decide!*' display board in a public area in your school. Give other students and adults the opportunity to add their own comments and opinions to this display (e.g. through adding sticky notes). Make sure you tell people about this opportunity to contribute to your debate in assembly or in a newsletter.

Materials to build a display – coloured paper, labels etc.

MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT

👁 **Count** how many people saw the display.

🤝 **Count** how many people interacted with the display e.g. by putting a post-it on it.

Don't forget to **write** a blog and **upload** a photo of your display

EXPLORE FURTHER

Explore the science of these chemicals. How do they actually work? What matter do they originate from?
Create some Chemical Fact Sheets that describe each chemical.