

Objectives	The Ethics of Cow's Farts	Extra Information
<p>L.O:</p> <p>To Understand the Meaning and Concept of Ethics.</p> <p>To Understand the Difference Between a Debate and an Argument.</p>	<p>GUIDANCE – In this lesson we will be debating some serious subjects covering topics that some pupils may find upsetting. If you have identified any pupils that may not react well to these topics you can have them explore the Picketing for Positive Change worksheet in the Additional Worksheets section of the Climate Vibes Learning Kit page on our website.</p> <p>STARTING ACTIVITY – (5 minutes) Tell the class that they will be exploring the topic of ethics. Tell them that it has something to do with being good. But they will have to discuss this further as a group.</p> <p>GROUP DISCUSSION – Ask for volunteers to try and define what they think ethics is to the rest of the class, and then have the rest of the class discuss what they think is right.</p> <p>Once the class has had a short time to discuss the definition of ethics, move on to the main teaching and explain what ethics is.</p> <p>MAIN TEACHING – The Ethics of... (20 minutes) Explain to the class that ethics is a set of moral principles or a philosophy held by a single person or a group of people that governs how they behave or act. You can use the example of religion and how each religion has its own set of principles and rules that its followers must abide by, to be what that particular religion defines as a 'good' person.</p> <p>But highlight that not everyone may think the same way or hold the same beliefs or opinions and that is ok. There are lots of ways to be a good person and more than one way to do the right thing that will achieve the best moral outcome.</p> <p>Tell the class that the uniqueness of an individual's view or opinion on ethics should never be disregarded, but can always be argued if there is an opposing (or opposite) viewpoint that also holds a moral grounding.</p> <p>Explain that ethics covers some very big and important questions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How to be good. ▶ What are our human rights and our responsibilities. ▶ Making moral decisions. ▶ The difference between good and bad. 	<p>Materials Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Supplementary pros and cons worksheets ▶ Access to a computer <p>Key Words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ethics ▶ Ethical ▶ Moral ▶ Principles ▶ Philosophy ▶ Religion ▶ Uniqueness ▶ Opinion ▶ Human Rights ▶ Responsibilities ▶ Debate ▶ Vegetarianism ▶ Animal Rights <p>Differentiation:</p> <p>Pupils that may not react well to some of the topics within this lesson's debate can complete the Picket for Positive Change worksheet from the website.</p> <p>Pupils that are further advanced and/or knowledgeable on this topic can research some of their own points to include in their debate using a classroom computer.</p>

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	<p>Ensure the class knows that a debate is not an argument, but a discussion that consists of two sides holding valid facts and opinions and how each side is trying to convince the other that they are correct. Tell the class that in a debate (especially concerning ethical matters) there is not necessarily a right or wrong side.</p> <p>Offer the class the example of vegetarianism and meat eaters as an ethical debate explaining that this will be the topic of our debate of the day.</p> <p>On one hand vegetarians may promote animal rights whilst meat eaters may support a healthy balanced diet. Neither of these points are wrong, it will be a matter of personal ethics.</p> <p>MAIN TASK – (30 minutes) GUIDANCE – Print out the related supplementary worksheets showing the pros and cons of this debate.</p> <p>Split the class into two groups, the 'pros' team and the 'cons' team. Tell them that we will be debating the ethics of the meat industry. To prepare for the debate each group must together discuss the topics on each sheet, so they are ready to present why it is a valid point. They must then decide who will present each point.</p> <p>GROUP DISCUSSION – Brief the class on the following Pros and Cons that they will be presenting during the debate. You can have a brief discussion about each point so the class has some information to go on when making their point.</p> <p>The ethics of cow farts and the meat industry (pros and cons fact sheet provided)</p> <p>Pros of the meat industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A more convenient source of food. (Processed meats and chicken products are known as convenience meats as they are pre-prepared for easy and safe consumption by consumers - Meat Institute) ▶ The meat industry keeps many species alive. (There are many species of cattle, pigs, goat, sheep and poultry that only exist because they are used and supported by the meat industry) 	<p>Success Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ I can define the meaning of ethics. ▶ I can define the meaning of ethics and I can tell the difference between a debate and an argument. ▶ I can define the meaning of ethics, I can tell the difference between a debate and an argument and I can make a strong point during an ethical debate.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The manure produced, provides fertiliser for farming. (Manure adds nutrients to the soil, such as nitrogen which is important for growing crops) ▶ Amazing source of energy from a balanced diet. (Meat is a good source of protein, iron and vitamins such as B12 - NHS) ▶ One of the biggest industries in the world for jobs. (Many careers rely on the meat industry from farmers to butchers, and even catering like restaurants) <p>Cons of the meat industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Methane produced by cow farts contributes to climate change. (Methane produced mainly from agriculture produces 6% of global green house gas emissions - one cow can produce up to 200kg of methane per year through burps and farts - The Guardian) ▶ Billions of animals are killed every year. (72 billion land animals and 1.2 trillion aquatic animals are killed yearly for human consumption globally - Sentient Media) ▶ Many of these animals are not treated well during their life. (Farmed animals are grouped together in small pens or cages preventing normal behaviour and lowering conditions - Compassion in World Farming) ▶ Meat consumption has been responsible for many of the most recent pandemics. (Ebola, Mers, Swine Flu, Sars, Bird Flu, VCJD - PETA) ▶ The meat industry contributes to deforestation. (The beef industry accounts for up to 70% deforestation in the Amazon - Rainforest Partnership) 	

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	<p>PLENARY – (5 minutes) Once the class has worked through every point and the debate is finished, you can choose which team (the pros or the cons) made the strongest arguments and has won the debate.</p> <p>Ask for volunteers to share what they think their own team could have done better and what they did well during the debate. Then ask what they think the opposing team could have done better and what they did well.</p> <p>Tell the class that in the next ethics lesson they will be debating the ethics of going on holiday and travel - suggest that they can do some additional research before the debate to raise some extra points.</p>	

The Ethics of Cow's Farts - Worksheet

PROS

Source of
food



Keeps species
alive



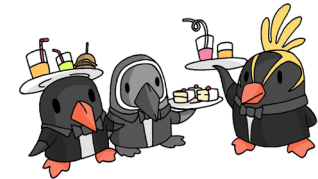
Fertiliser for
farming



Source of
energy



Industry for
jobs



CONS

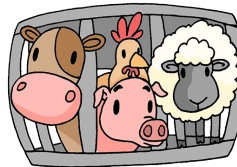
Methane contributes
to climate change



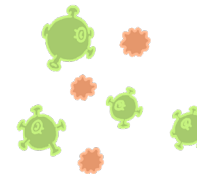
Animals killed



Animals not
treated well



Contributed to
pandemics



Contributes to
deforestation



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PROS

A more convenient
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PROS

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The Ethics of Cow's Farts - Worksheet

PROS

The manure produced, provides
fertiliser for farming



The Ethics of Cow's Farts - Worksheet

PROS

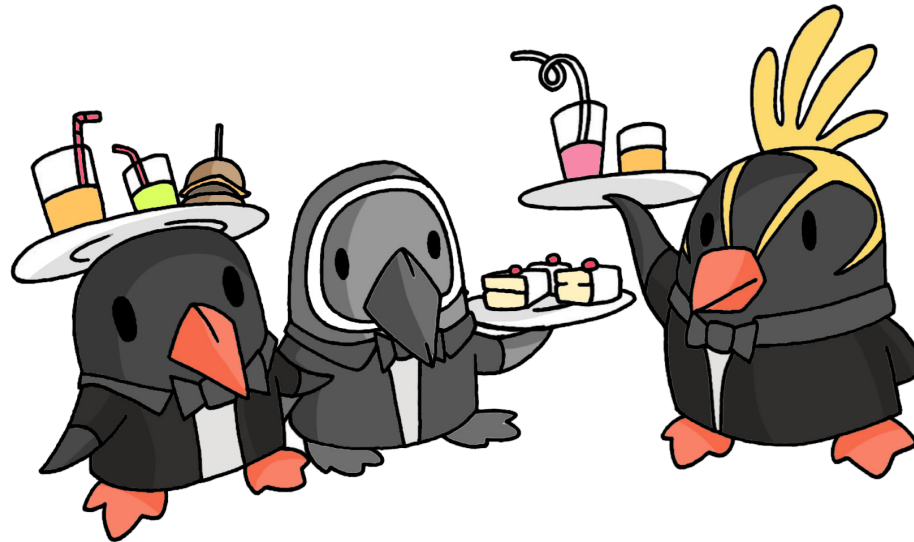
Amazing source of energy
from a balanced diet



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PROS

One of the biggest industries
in the world for jobs



The Ethics of Cow's Farts - Worksheet

CONS

Methane produced by cow farts
contributes to climate change



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CONS

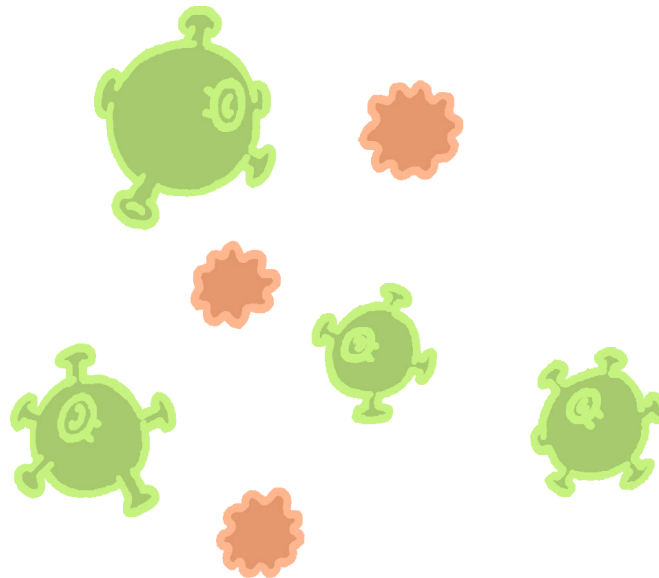
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CONS

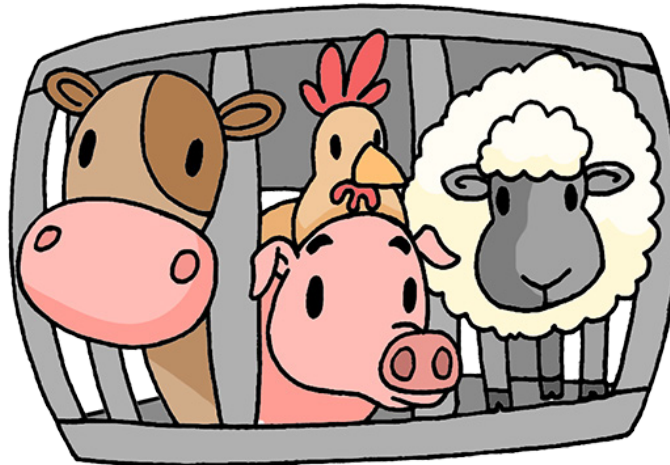
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The Ethics of Cow's Farts - Worksheet

CONS

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