Project 7
Trade not Aid

Suggested age: 10 to 12
# Project 7
## Trade not Aid

### Summary
This project explores the Little Sun model of trade that focuses on generating self-sustaining businesses and futures for all.

### Outcomes
- Through individual and group activities, students will gain new knowledge on the Little Sun business model that utilizes the principles of capitalism for the advantage of all.
- Students will develop their observational, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to explore this topic.

### Suggested age range: 10 to 12 years  
### Subjects Covered: Economics, Citizenship  
### Materials: Little Suns, Trade not Aid Print-outs  
### Time required: Preparation: 5 minutes  
### Preparation:  
- Read through the program once  
- Prepare materials (Little Suns, Print-outs, any other props)

### Introduction:
Little Sun uses the ‘trade not aid’ model to generate self-sustaining businesses and futures for all. This project examines what this model means and which groups and individuals it affects.
Role playing: assign each student in the class a role from a corporation, an NGO, a government, as well as a role in an industry such as agriculture to play. Roles could include, for example: Company CEO, Project Officer, Trade Minister, coffee farmer, child of the coffee farmer. If the resources are available, students could be given nametags as well as props to help set the scene. You can give the students a specific scenario in which they can play out their role. Here is an example:

A small coffee farmer has to walk from his coffee plantation to his home through the mountains at night with no light. His child also has no light to walk home from school through the mountains. A local NGO in the region receives his plea for help and decides to do something. He talks to the farmer, to the child, to government and to a corporation about what the best way is to help the farmer. Students could then discuss the pros and cons of each option:

- A. Give the farmer and his child a light each which lasts 2 years
- B. Donate a few lights to the local community and they decide who gets the lights
- C. Give the community a loan which they can use to buy lights for everyone and then they can pay back the loan through setting up a small business which sells more lamps to those who need them.

Draw up the results in a ‘happy’ graph showing which result brings the most happiness to who and when.

Understand that different aid models affect lives in different ways.
Little Sun is not a charity, but an inclusive social business. Rather than a short-term fix of donating lamps to an area without electricity, we work with and train local entrepreneurs to build profitable local businesses that distribute Little Sun light. For us, it’s not just about delivering light to people – it matters how it gets there.