

# EXPLORING RURAL MODERN SLAVERY



KEY STAGE 3

## *Modern Day Slavery Lesson Plan*

This lesson will be looking at examples of modern day slavery in the UK. It will consider the causes, impact and outcome of these situations. It has a focus on what modern day slavery looks like in rural settings, but extends these ideas to the wider landscape of our country too.

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THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

# Exploring Rural Modern Day Slavery

## Lesson Goal

To understand how modern day slavery can exist in rural communities

## Objectives

- 1) Pupils will learn the story of Darrell Simister and the Morecambe Bay Cocklers Tragedy that reshaped the way the food industry looks at modern day slavery.
- 2) Pupils will consider what makes someone vulnerable, and apply this knowledge to the examples explored.
- 3) Pupils will explore and discuss 'justice' and whether it was reached in each case.
- 4) Pupils will recognise how easy it is to be tricked or coerced into a situation that is negative and dangerous, thus helping them protect themselves and others.

### Starter

In groups or pairs, ask pupils to consider what it means to be vulnerable. What qualities do those who are vulnerable have? Each group should make notes on how someone may find themselves in a situation where they will be vulnerable.

Groups should then feedback to the class their definitions of vulnerability.

Following their suggestions, include an explanation of vulnerability as the following:

- 'exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.'
- (of a person) in need of special care, support, or protection because of age, disability, or risk of abuse or neglect.

Ask the class: **Are children considered vulnerable?** Let the class consider the pro's and con's of being considered vulnerable as a minor.

*Reiterate that often children are considered vulnerable as they are able to be influenced by adults. This is because as a minor you are constantly working out the world, and who you are going to be. It can take time to know what is right and wrong.*

### Activity 1

Watch the video/report of Darrell Simister, a man who was taken from the streets and forced to work for a family on their farm, doing jobs as and when he was told. Held for 13 years, Darrell was never paid.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-29543668/vulnerable-man-forced-into-modern-day-slavery>

Whilst watching the video children should write notes on the following headings:

- Who was Darrell? What did he go through?

*He was male, 44, timid and vulnerable. Found on a farm between Newport and Cardiff. Darrell met his captors on the side of the road. He had been offered a few days work bricklaying/tarmac. He was kept for 13 years.*

- Where was he kept? What were the conditions?

*Never paid, but was taken to their farm. No hygiene facilities, degrading. He washed in an animal trough. 7am-9pm at night, 7 days a week. Darrell only left the farm 2 or 3 times in 13 years.*

- Why was Darrell unable to leave?

*He was not able to leave because he was scared and thought 'they' were watching him. He didn't know how to get help.*

### Activity 1 continued

- What do we notice about those who kept Darrell in modern day slavery?

*They either did not comment, or were in denial about what they had done. They had little or no remorse. Mrs Doran said sorry for the way the situation turned out.*

Discuss with the class:

- 1) "How do we feel about each person in this story?"
  - Darrell Simester
  - Darrell's Family (mum and brother)
  - Daniel Doran Senior
  - Daniel Doran Junior
  - Daniel Doran Junior's Partner.
- 2) How may each person have felt when Darrell was rescued?

### Activity 2

Give half the class a copy of the 2004 article on Morecambe Bay to read. The class should highlight and annotate hints that the police were suspicious that what happened could have been due to modern day slavery.

Provide the other half of the class with a report from 2014 on Morecambe Bay to read. These pupils should look at how the world reacted to the cockles disaster and, additionally, how the authorities reacted to the tragedy. Ask them to highlight and annotate what information is given to support that the workers were modern day slaves.

The class should feedback to each other on what they understood about the cockles disaster. Help them come to a conclusion on the following questions:

1. Who's fault was the disaster?
2. Why were the cockle pickers targeted to do the work for less pay than ordinary cockle pickers got? (refer back to vulnerability).
3. Were the workers modern day slaves?
4. How do we feel about the situation?
5. What safety measures should have been put in place for the workers?

***This tragedy initiated the creation of Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority: who look into those who can have a license to operate in the food industry. They regulate against modern day slavery.***

6. What could have been done by the public to help the cockle pickers at the time?

(Note: The Modern Slavery Act, 2015, was put into place by Theresa May and her Government to try and tackle these issues.)

### Activity 3

What is justice? *Define with the class.*

- 1) *Just behaviour or treatment.*  
*"a concern for justice, peace, and genuine respect for people"*
- 2) *The quality of being fair and reasonable.*  
*"the justice of his case"*
- 3) *The administration of the law or authority in maintaining this.*  
*"a tragic miscarriage of justice"*

Recap the cases of Darrell Simester and the 23 cocklers on Morecambe Bay. Did the measures put in place by authorities and the public give either of these tragic situations a sense of closure and justice?

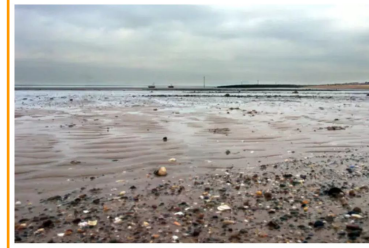
Discuss with the class what sentence they think each person should have been given in the situations. How does this compare to the reality below?

## Activity 3 continued



9 UPDATES 26 October 2014  
**Farm owner sentenced to 4.5 years in prison for forced labour**

**Anger as killer Morecambe Bay gangmaster is given his freedom**



Morecambe Bay  
 The Triad gangmaster, now 39, was jailed for 14 years at Preston Crown Court but was released in 2012 after serving around half over the deaths, which left at least 26 children bereaved.

## Discussion/Recap

- Ask pupils to recall what makes someone vulnerable to modern day slavery
- Discuss how modern day slavery can be seen in rural areas, referring to the two examples you looked at today.
- Recall the conditions that slaves are kept in. They are often denied many basic rights.
- See if the class can remember which agencies/schemes have been set up to try and combat modern day slavery in rural areas. (**GLAA (Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority) [previously Gangmasters Licensing Authority] and the Modern Slavery Act [2015]**).
- Discuss what measures you would want to see the public put into place to help those who are being held in modern day slavery

## Conclusion

Conclude the lesson with the following points:

- Men and women were held as slaves in both the examples looked at today.
- The nationalities of slaves were varied. Modern day slaves could be any nationality, including British.
- Modern day slavery victims can be a variety of ages. Victims at Morecambe Bay ranged from 18 to 45.
- Conditions modern day slaves are held in are often degrading, squalid and lack basic hygiene.
- The public have a duty to report any suspicious behaviour they see, in order to stop Gangmasters taking advantage of workers in the food and construction business.
- We can make sure we protect ourselves and those around us by providing support to vulnerable individuals.

## Moving Forwards...

It may be hard to see how people being held in rural situations affects pupils directly. It is important to remind them that Darrell Simester was someone who needed to be protected and one day we all hope that someone would look out for us.

Look out for signs of someone trying to make you become a modern day slave, as in the examples looked at today .

- Not being paid for the work you do
- Being held in a house that has poor living standards, being overcharged for living there.
- Not being allowed to choose where you live
- Not being able to leave the house
- Having your benefits taken by someone else
- Not knowing where you are in the country
- Being abused and made to lie to officials
- Being threatened by your 'boss'.

You can report any worries or concerns you have about yourself, or someone else by calling various agencies: the Buzzline (Just Enough UK's Child Advice Line), NSPCC, Police and local authorities.

## Tides kill 19 cockle pickers

**Task: Read the article from 2004 to gain an understanding of the Morecambe Bay Tragedy. Highlight hints in the text that suggest this was a case of Modern Day Slavery.**



At least 19 people died when they were trapped by rising tides as they picked cockles on the notoriously dangerous mudflats at Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, last night. The victims, mostly young people, were believed to have been Chinese. They were part of a group of more than 30 cockle pickers who had apparently been working in the dark. Police are investigating why the group were working in such perilous conditions, and said that criminal charges could follow.

A major rescue operation was launched after authorities were alerted at around 9pm last night. Two RAF helicopters and a hovercraft were scrambled. Sixteen people were found safe, some of whom had managed to escape from the water. Conditions in the area had been made more dangerous by recent heavy rain.

The victims were mostly men in their teens or 20s. The initial toll was thought to be 18 dead, including two women, but police reported the discovery of a 19th body late this afternoon.

As the rescue operation continued today, police were trying to establish who, if anyone, the cockle pickers had been working for. Julia Hodson, Lancashire police's assistant chief constable, pledged to bring criminal charges against anyone found to be responsible.

"As far as I am concerned, these are what a coroner would view as suspicious deaths, and the possible range of criminal convictions could be from homicide, at one extreme end, to the other end of the spectrum, which would be licensing issues," she said.

She added it was not clear whether all those involved were Chinese, saying that they spoke more than one language or dialect. Translators are now helping police. Lancashire's chief constable, Paul Stephenson, said: "They may be illegal immigrants, or they may have licences." What is certain, however, is that the deaths will heighten concerns over people working in dangerous and exploitative conditions, a situation to which illegal immigrants are particularly vulnerable.

Geraldine Smith, the MP for Morecambe and Lunesdale, said that the rush by gangs of pickers to harvest the shellfish had been a "tragedy waiting to happen". One local resident said that around 500 people a day flocked to the area to pick the cockles, the total value of which is around £6m.

Describing the harrowing job of recovering the bodies, RNLI rescue hovercraft commander Harry Roberts said that none of the victims had had any safety equipment, and some had stripped naked as they tried to swim to safety. He said: "The water was not much above freezing, the wind was blowing a force six, and the water had been moving at four to five knots. I would guess that, after half an hour in those conditions, you would be in big trouble."

During the night, rescuers using hovercraft began ferrying bodies back to shore from a sandbank in the northern part of the bay. The sandbank was several miles from Hest Bank, where the group were reported missing.

Two survivors were taken to Lancashire Royal Infirmary, and others to Lancaster police station. Morecambe Bay is notorious for its fast-rising tides and quicksands. Stewart Rushton and his nine-year-old son, Adam, died in the flats two years ago after becoming disorientated in fog and trapped by the rapidly incoming tide. In August last year, police arrested 37 Chinese people in the Chatsworth area of Morecambe after members of the public expressed concerns.

Cockle picking is not illegal, but locals have complained after reports that groups of fishermen from across the UK were flocking to Morecambe Bay. Some argue that, while members of the public should be free to pick cockles, those doing it for a business should be regulated and licensed.

Ms Smith told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme: "You can't stop people turning up and going on the beach at eight o'clock on a dark winter's night.

"There have been concerns for a long time by local residents. The legislation dates back over 100 years, so there is a need, maybe, to update legislation regarding fisheries.

"The cockles which were on the beach were worth a great deal of money but, very tragically, I would imagine that those poor people who lost their lives were making very little of that money, and were probably victims of exploitation."

# Justice for the cockle pickers would be a new Modern Slavery Bill

Christian Guy



**Task: Read the article from 2014 to gain an understanding of the impact of the Morecambe Bay Tragedy. Highlight hints in the text that suggest this was a case of Modern Day Slavery.**

Ten years ago the sands of Morecambe Bay were stained by modern slavery. The death of 23 terrified Chinese cockle pickers, left stranded as the tide swept in, shocked our country.

Smuggled into the region with the false promise of prosperity, two women and 22 men were sent to do the treacherous beach work on 5 February 2004. Their ringleaders had destroyed their passports, and, using violence, threats and the cruellest of coercion, they destroyed their lives too.

Only one survived. Li Hua spoke recently of his constant anguish. He tells of the night terrors, the panic attacks and his gut-wrenching sadness. Despite everything though, he knows he's lucky to be alive.

In the end the principal trafficker, Triad chief Lin Liang Ren, served just four months in prison for each of the lives he ended. Others, including his then girlfriend, were convicted of immigration offences.

A decade later too many people live with the torment Li Hua describes. Millions more are yet to know the freedom he grips so tightly today. Countless criminals continue to exploit victims unabated.

The global slavery picture is naturally blurry. Some organisations estimate that as many as 27 million people are enslaved, others like the Walk Free Foundation have created an Index which tries to make a country by country assessment. The UN says that trafficking ranks second only to the drug trade amongst the most valuable international crimes.

As the grim Morecambe anniversary passes, the picture in the UK is murkier still. In the space of nine months in 2013 over a thousand victims were identified, according to the Home Office. But, because of flaws in our victim referral system and enforcement approach, the true number is much higher.

Yet amidst the injustice a precious opportunity has emerged. Following the Centre for Social Justice's 2013 report *It Happens Here*, the Home Secretary has committed to pass a new Modern Slavery Bill. If crafted ambitiously and backed by Labour, it has the potential to prevent further tragedies like the one we remember today.

The Bill should create an independent role for an Anti-Slavery Commissioner to give a voice to survivors. It should bring clarity to the law to make policing, prosecutions and convictions easier. It should also ensure that businesses make a priority of ensuring their supply chains are clear of modern slavery. Horsemeat instead of beef caused outrage. What about the reality of slaves instead of staff?

Today, as we think of those who died at Morecambe Bay, we have a way out. Through a Modern Slavery Bill the UK can lead again. Let's take our chance.

*Christian Guy is Director of the Centre for Social Justice*

<https://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2014/02/horsemeat-instead-of-beef-caused-outrage-so-why-not-the-reality-of-slaves-instead-of-staff>

Watch the video about Morecambe Bay Tragedy, from the 2014 article: <https://youtu.be/foOqptJG-nk>

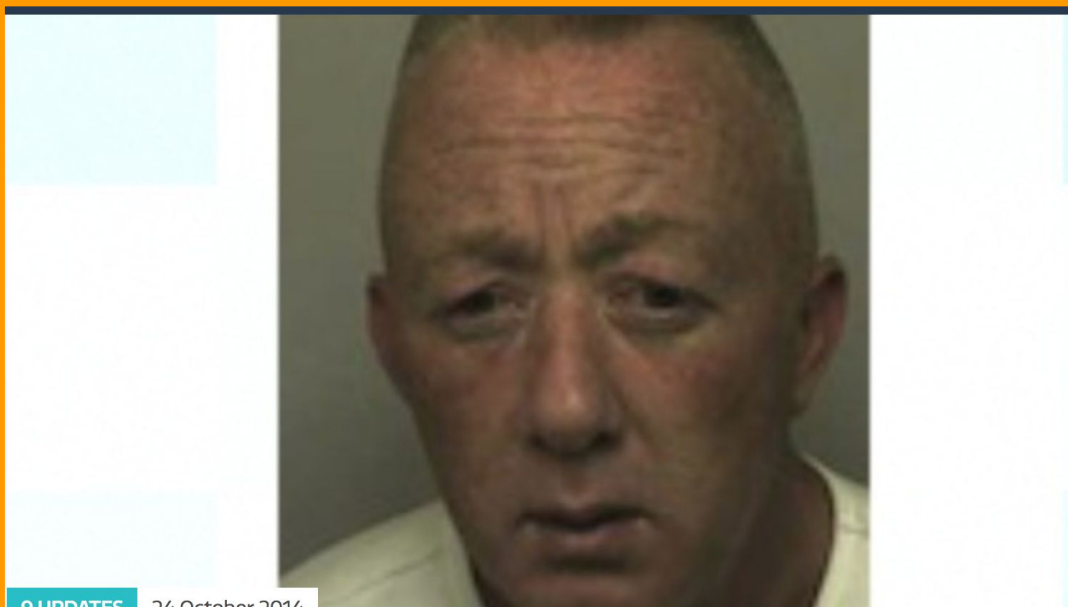
# Is this Justice...?

## Anger as killer Morecambe Bay gangmaster is given his freedom



Morecambe Bay.

The Triad gangmaster, now 39, was jailed for 14 years at Preston Crown Court but was released in 2012 after serving around half over the deaths, which left at least 26 children bereaved.



9 UPDATES 24 October 2014

## Farm owner sentenced to 4.5 years in prison for forced labour