



2. Take a look at this short video clip, only watch from 6:40 to 10:30. (click on the picture for the link) and write down 2 facts about coffee growing and picking. Does the clip show coffee picking as a benefit or a negative?



Read the news report below:

### The true cost of coffee

January is the "mero mero" or height, of coffee season in Honduras, a country in Central America. Honduras has a large percentage of coffee farmers and workers, who live and work in extremely poor conditions for little pay. It was a bad year for a lot of people. Coffee farmers have a job, which pays them, but when coffee prices are low, farmers received a poor price for their coffee beans. This is because the buyers who work for companies, such as Kenco and Nestle have all the power and can pay what they want.

Picture showing the living conditions of some farmers



The harvest this year was about half as big as last year. The cold weather made it hard to find enough willing workers, and the coffee berries began to fall off the trees, threatening the health of the trees for next year's harvest. This is despite the fact that new roads have been built to transport the coffee. Villages also use these roads. People who manage the farms work from before sunrise up until 9 or 10 at night driving workers, washing, drying, bagging, and selling the coffee. The people who stay home cook all day for many people.

The process of harvesting coffee leads to the pollution of streams and rivers as pesticides (something used to control insects) and fertilisers, used to grow coffee wash into the rivers during rainfall. Most farms do not have proper toilets, so rivers are also polluted with sewage. In these tropical areas many trees are deforested so farmland can be created to grow coffee. This damages habitat and reduces biodiversity.

Another problem comes from the thousands of workers. The living conditions consist of several families, plus other individuals, living on the farms in poorly built houses, sleeping on the ground, cooking where they can and going to the bathroom where there are no bathrooms. Some farms have latrines (a type of toilet), but a lot of them don't, and even if the farms do, coffee cutters don't have latrines in their homes, and so they aren't used to the latrines and don't necessarily



like using them.



Consider the case of Juanita, a 55 year old widow who takes care of several acres with help from a few people. During the harvest, Juanita walks an hour uphill to her farm every day. Like most women, she does not attend the community meetings, where men discuss these problems. She is too busy taking care of her farm and her grandchildren.

A positive change is that there are several model farms in Honduras, where the farmers are using organic (natural) fertilisers and pesticides. They receive training in how to grow and process coffee safely, and how to grow other important

plants and trees in their coffee farms to help improve the wildlife. They work as educators in their communities. It's a small start!

3. After reading the article above, complete the tasks below:
  - a) Create a table and write benefits and negatives on either side.
  - b) Summaries the info into your table.
  - c) Create a key and categories the information you have added into social, economic and environmental.

**Challenge:** Do you think the benefits out way the challengers. Explain your decision by writing a paragraph in your book.