World Regional Geography Assignment: Name: Luke Pepin

**Banana Production**

Bananas are grown throughout tropical Meso- and South America for worldwide consumption. Considering the immense distance that bananas often travel to reach consumers in non-tropical regions, it is amazing that they are as cheap and plentiful as they are in our grocery stores. In this activity, we are going to explore some of the reasons bananas are so cheap, what that means for the people and places where bananas are produced, and how we can be more informed about some of the labeling that comes with bananas.

When examining the conditions associated with banana production, a good place to start is with bananalink. Although this site is based in the UK, the issues they bring up apply to the rest of the world too. In class, we will watch the short video, Bananas Unpeeled. This focuses on the labor side of the banana-production story. We encourage you to read the rest of this web page https://www.bananalink.org.uk/the-problem-with-bananas/ on banana production practices.

1. What fruit did bananas displace as the most eaten fruit in the world?

Apples

1. How much of the banana market is controlled by the main five global conglomerates?

~80%

1. According to the workers, what is wrong with buying bananas?

Poor working conditions, limited workers rights

1. What are some of the negative conditions that banana workers have to deal with?

Pesiticdes, long hours, poor job security, no wage increases

1. What are some of the environmental consequences of banana production?

Deforestation, pesticides, birth defects

1. What is different about bananas grown in the Windward Islands of the Carribean according to the video?

Windward Island has more sustainable farming practices

1. As a consumer, do you seek out bananas (or other products) that use better environmental and labor practices? Does this information make you want to consider other options and if so, how much more would you be willing to pay for a certified banana? (If you are like me and don’t actually like bananas, similar efforts apply to other products like coffee and chocolate which also come from tropical crops so you can talk about those)

No, I do not seek out bananas that use better environmental and labor practices. This information does make me want to consider other options I may be willing to pay ~25% more for a certifed banana.