



The plantation owners

- The plantation owners sell the bananas to the shipper.
- They have to pay for the care of the land and the workers on the plantation.
- They hire men to look after the plantation and to make sure the farmers do their work.



The banana farmers

- The work is very hard and it is very hot.
- The banana plants take 18 months before the bunches of bananas are ready to cut down.
- While they are growing the bananas have to be covered in plastic sheets to protect them from damage by the weather and by pests. .
- Farmers have to buy fertilizers to help the bananas grow and pesticides to help protect the crop from bugs and pests.
- When the bananas have grown, but are still green, the farmer cuts them from the plants with a machete, washes them, and sorts and packs them in boxes.
- The plants then die and the farmer must grow new ones.



The shippers

- The shipper collects the bananas from the plantation.
- They pay the plantation owners for the bananas.
- They weigh them to see how much they are buying.
- They pack the boxes onto the ships. They transport the boxes of bananas from Ghana to Ireland in refrigerator ships.
- The journey takes about six days.





The ripeners

- The ripener collects the bananas from the shippers and pays them for the bananas.
- The bananas are brought by lorry to the factory where they are carefully ripened for about a week.
- They have to be kept in special rooms at the right temperature to help them ripen. T
- hey are sorted into different sizes and packed ready for sending out to the shopkeepers.
- The boxes are loaded into a lorry to go to the shops.



The shopkeepers



- The shopkeepers order the bananas from the ripeners.
- They pay for the bananas and unpack the bananas from the lorries.
- They lay out the bananas so customers can see them.
- They put prices on the bananas and sell the ripe bananas to us.
- If they are not sold quickly they over-ripen and turn brown and have to be thrown out.

