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## LARC Resources about Coffee

The LARC lending library has an extensive collection of educational materials for teacher and classroom use such as videos, slides, units, books, games, curriculum units, and maps. They are available for free short term loan to any instructor in the United States.

These materials can be found on the online searchable catalog:  
<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/pages/detail/48/Lending-Library>

## FILMS

### ***Coffee with the Taste of the Moon***

This film looks into the faces of people who are at times "consumers" and "producers" of what is known as the most traded commodity in the world after oil- coffee. From the point of view of the narrator who one day ponders the impact of his morning cup, We begin to see that coffee is an entry point for considering the impact of our consumption choices in the United States on social justice issues and ecological concerns across the Americas and around the world. We begin to see what makes specialty coffee special, to consider claims of corporate social responsibility and to understand how an industry that has questionable impacts on people and the planet is also has a thriving sustainability movement comprised of a number of grassroots campaigns and product certification programs, including Fair Trade and Organic. The narrator's quest takes us to communities of farmers in Central America that each are in some way envisioning improving their quality of life as they improve the quality of their coffee and conserve the land. Through the stories of engaging, often endearing individuals, "Coffee with the taste of the Moon" explores topics like market consolidation, food safety and the short-sighted risks of the agrochemical industry's Green Revolution. The viewer may see that the nuances of flavor in quality coffee are a result of artisan craftsmanship and wisdom passed down generation to generation all while also questioning some of the core underlying assumptions of globalization. It is the story of poetic social activists, entrepreneurs, earnest and innovative farmers, scientists, and the coffee drinkers who connect them. This is a small story of awareness about how we treat our neighbors, and about how our purchases represent our values. 2005. English. 57 minutes.



## Latin American Resource Center Resources Focusing on Coffee

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### ***Coffee: A Sack Full of Power***

Coffee ranks second only to oil as the most important raw material on the world market. It has shaped the economies history, and social structure of a large part of Latin America. The film explains the difference between the Brazilian and Costa Rican system of production, and why the Brazilian system has led to such poverty. Mechanization of farms has thrown many rural laborers out of work, an explosive situation in a country where one percent of the population owns 46% of the land. Nobel Peace prize winner Oscar Arias and economist Celeso Furtado analyze the market forces that affect coffee prices. An important film for economics and Latin American Studies. 1999. Filmmakers Library. English. 52 minutes.

### ***El Crucero***

An in-depth picture of a Nicaraguan coffee plantation in September 1984. Interviews with female farm workers, a farm union organizer, and others who work on the farm. Discusses the various issues: the role of women, food shortages, war, workers' demands, poor health conditions. Julia Lesage. English. 60 minutes.

### ***Halvan kahvin uhrit (Victims of Cheap Coffee)***

Collapsing prices on the world coffee market have plunged millions of growers in many countries into poverty. In Nicaragua, Rosa Maria Mendez buried her 6-year-old son, who had died of starvation. "We have nothing left but to wait for death", she says, as she looks after her five surviving children. Coffee plantation owners are bankrupt, the workers are starving. The programme reports on the victims of cheap coffee and tells about the consequences that collapse of coffee prices has caused in producer countries. The programme was filmed in Nicaragua and Vietnam. 2003. Finnish with English subtitles. 50 minutes.

### ***Islas Hermanas (Sister Islands)***

Celebrating a unique 13 year relationship between Bainbridge Island, Washington and Ometepe Island in Nicaragua, *Islas Hermanas* travels from the volcanic slopes of Nicaragua, where the Ometepe community cultivates organic coffee beans, to the Pegasus Coffee Company, on Bainbridge, where volunteers roast, pack and distribute the fair-trade commodity. But it's more than coffee. These "sister" communities have become a part of each other's consciousness. Bainbridge students raise money to send to Ometepe, and in turn Ometepe families open their homes to the students, for whom a visit to the village can be a priceless look into another world. 1999. English. 28 minutes.



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## **CURRICULUM UNITS**

### ***Coffee Connections***

Examines coffee and its relationship to key issues in the international economy. Consists of four lessons on international coffee connections, Californian connections, coffee in Latin America, and the international economy. Guide included. English. 66 pages, 13 slides.

### ***Roots of Rebellion***

Examines the causes of poverty and rebellion in Central America. Shows the life of the peasants and business of the rural oligarchs. Asks why so few people have so much land and why Central Americans are growing coffee and bananas for export, when so many in the region do not have enough food to feed themselves. 1984. English. 15 minutes, 79 slides.