

White gold – the true cost of cotton

1. In what way is Uzbekistan important in the global economy?

2. What percentage of the Uzbek population works in this industry? Why so many?

3. Name some of the worst effects of Uzbekistan's cotton production on the environment and society.

4. What is seen as the primary cause of these problems?

5. How is most of the cotton harvest gathered? What does this kind of work involve? Who does it?

6. Is it justified to call this kind of work slave labour? Argue why (not).

7. Who sets and controls the cotton price in Uzbekistan? Why is this possible?

8. Why would the Uzbek people be better off growing produce (= fruit & vegetables) in their gardens than working in the cotton fields?

