Section 5: U.S. and Global Hunger

Lesson Description
Students explore national and global hunger facts.

Materials Needed
Computer
Graph - Comparative Statistics on Local, National and Global Hunger

Preflection

• What is food insecurity? Food insecurity exists when people lack sustainable physical or economic access to enough safe, nutritious, and socially acceptable food for a healthy and productive life. Food insecurity may be chronic, seasonal, or temporary.

• What does it mean to have access to “socially acceptable” food? What ways of getting food are socially acceptable? What are some ways that aren’t?

• What are some reasons that a person might not have access to food some of the time or seasonally?

Facts

Hunger in the United States.
Our national population in 2010 was 308,745,000.

• In 2010, 48.8 million Americans lived in food insecure households, 32.6 million adults and 16.2 million children. That means almost 1 in 4 children is food insecure.

• In 2010, 14.5 percent of households (17.2 million households) were food insecure.

• In 2010, 5.4 percent of households (6.4 million households) experienced very low food security. This means that the food intake of one or more household members was reduced and their eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food.

• In 2010, households with children reported food insecurity at a significantly higher rate than those without children, 20.2 percent compared to 11.7 percent.

• In 2010, households that had rates of food insecurity higher than the national average included households with children (20.2 percent), especially households with children headed by single women (35.1 percent) or single men (25.4 percent), Black non-Hispanic households (25.1 percent) and Hispanic households (26.2 percent).
Global Hunger
The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that our global population is 7.1 billion.

- There are 870 million undernourished people in the world today; another way to think of it is 1 in 8 people do not get enough food.

- Hunger and malnutrition pose a greater risk on worldwide health than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.

- One out of six children in developing countries is underweight; that is approximately 100 million people

- 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.

- Global causes of hunger include nature (natural disasters, drought, and climate change), war, poverty, agricultural infrastructure, and the over-exploitation of the environment.

Facts – from World Food Programme (wfp.org) - global statistics link hunger with malnutrition, weight, and sometimes disease

Activity 2
The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that our global population is 7.1 billion.

- Use the CIA World Factbook – choose five countries to research
  - Look at population
  - Using the ratio of undernourished people in the world (listed above in the facts section), determine an approximation of how many people in this country would be undernourished.
  - For developing countries (information not given for most developed countries): How many children under the age of 5 are underweight? What comparison placement does this country have?
  - What are the major agricultural products? What items are missing? What does this mean for providing a healthy meal for the families?
  - Are there any food commodities that are exported or imported?

- In 2009, 8.0 percent of seniors living alone (925,000 households) were food insecure.

- Food insecurity exists in every county in America, ranging from a low of 5 percent in Steele County, N.D. to a high of 38 percent in Wilcox County, Ala.
Using a general search engine, research the food culture of the above selected countries
- What are the national dishes?
- What are the major holidays of the country and what role does food play in those holiday celebrations?

**Activity 3**
- Cook a traditional food item from a culture that is different than your own.

**Reflection/Discussion Questions**
- What were statistics that surprised you about U.S. or global hunger?
- While completing the activities, did you encounter any information about global hunger relief?