

How Food Grows/Threats to Feeding People

Essential Questions: How does Food Grow? What are the threats to growing enough for the population?

Objectives: Students will:

- research how food grows.
- research threats to feeding people.

Instructional Procedures

- Hook (5 minutes): Say, “The world will have 62 million more people this year than last. How will we feed all of these people? Do we have enough farms?” Have a quick open air discussion to engage the class. Then present the two challenges for groups of two students to research.
- Research (20 minutes): Put learners in groups of two. Assign one partner research topic one and the other partner research topic two. They may use the Internet and the resources listed below.
- Topic One: How does food grow?
 - Examine farming basics and land needs.
 - What are the input costs to producing food?
 - What are the viable options for meeting the demand for more food?
- Topic Two: Threats to food production
 - What threats could keep us from producing enough?
 - How do weather, pests, animal disease, and lack of viable land affect producing crops, raising livestock and poultry, and feeding people?
- Pairing (5 minutes): Allow partners to share their research findings with each other and prepare for sharing with the whole class.
- Sharing (10 minutes): Report out with the whole class on the findings of each group

Bibliography

- USDA Choose My Plate www.Choosemyplate.gov
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) www.usda.gov
- Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) <http://www.cast-science.org>
- USDA/Economical Research Service (ERS) www.ers.usda.gov
- Institute of Food Technologies (IFT) <http://www.ift.org/>

