

PRE-MADE LESSON PLANS OVERVIEW



Food Footprints through Time

Abellera, Diana. Redefining Progress, 2005.

Overview: This activity is designed to have students think about significant moments in history that have affected today's food system. They will use their knowledge of different time periods and cultures to determine which foods people ate in the past. Then they will analyze how their food got to the tables, identify all the people involved in the process, and assess the size of the corresponding footprints. Students will see how the world's increasing interconnectedness resulted in increased footprint size. Events such as colonialism, the establishment of trade routes, the industrial revolution, and the green revolution shaped the food system and distribution of food as we know it today.

Objectives:

1. Identify food from certain time periods based on what they have learned in class and through readings.
2. Map foods from sources to sinks.
3. Compare and contrast Footprint sizes between time periods and/or nations.
4. Think about their own food footprints and evaluate their sizes.
5. Discuss individual as well as large scale steps they can take to reduce food footprints.

When the Chips Are Down

Facing the Future: The Curriculum Guide: Classroom Activities for Teaching About Global Issues and Solutions, 2002.

Overview: Students model three patterns of ecological footprint growth over four generations, using poker chips to represent ecological footprints and maps to represent countries. This activity emphasizes the impact of changes in population-growth rates and consumption patterns over relatively few generations, and possible solutions to these impacts.

Objectives:

1. Students design and draw maps of their ideal country
2. Model different ecological footprint growth rates over time (using consumption and population rates).
3. Consider and discuss the impacts of the different ecological footprint growth rates.
4. Consider, discuss, and debate a number of "structural" solutions to impacts associated with ecological footprint growth.

Columbian Exchange Activity

Overview: Students walk vegetables from their origins through the modern trade patterns established by Columbus' voyages. Students physically move vegetables from one country to another inside the classroom. Students discuss what factors caused these foods to move and where they are grown currently.

Objectives:

1. To understand where various vegetables originated and how their global distribution was impacted by the Columbian Exchange.
2. To explore what the origins of crops have to do with the concept of a food system and the modern patterns of eating in this country.

