

Lesson Title: Addressing World Hunger	Grade: 8	Subject: Social Studies	Unit: Interactions and Interdependence of Nations	Topic: Poverty	Time: 2 hours	Cross-Curricular Components: Geography
URL: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/18/g68/tghunger.html						
Lesson Description: This lesson introduces students to programs that exist to address the complex problem of world hunger. They will discuss some of the reasons why people go hungry, read articles about specific initiatives and projects, and asked to discuss these projects and whether they think they are effective. Students conclude by writing statements they would make to friends or relatives who think the world hunger problem may be irresolvable.					Curriculum Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IN8.1 Investigate the meaning of culture and the origins of Canadian cultural diversity. (a,b,c) 	
Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer with Internet access Blank Xpeditions outline maps of the world, one for each student 					Assessment: Ask students to imagine that a friend or relative has said to them "It's such a pity that so many people are hungry in the world, but what can be done? It seems hopeless to me." Ask students to write statements they would make to this person. Their statements should describe some of the activities that may help alleviate world hunger.	

Procedure:**Before:**

Ask students to name some of the reasons why they think people go hungry and why hunger is still a problem in the world today. List as many ideas as possible.

Share with students some of the facts mentioned at the World Food Program's [Facts and Figures](#) page. It is important for them to understand that there is no single cause of world hunger and that it is a very complex issue.

Emphasize that, as students probably know, hunger is a problem not only in developing countries but also in the United States. In this lesson, however, they will learn about some organizations that are working to help people in other countries escape hunger.

During:

Have students go to the following Web pages to get an overview of these three organizations. Ask them to write two to three sentences describing in their own words what each organization does.

[Future Harvest](#)

[Heifer International](#)

[Oxfam: What We Do](#)

[United Nations World Food Program: Introduction](#)

Discuss these questions as a class: "Why are women featured on each of these organizations' Web pages? Why are women so important in the issue of food and hunger?" [Hint: Students might want to go back to the World Food Program page for a specific answer to this question.]

Have students read the following articles related to hunger relief activities.

[National Geographic News: Agriculture, Biodiversity Protection Must Co-Exist in Conservation, Study Says](#)

[Heifer International Success Stories](#) (choose one)

[Oxfam: Microfinancing in Senegal](#)

[World Food Program Frontpage Newsroom](#) (look for the link to "Passage From India")

Ask students to label [blank outline maps of the world](#) with the places they have read about in the articles.

After:

Discuss these questions as a class:

- What problems did the teacher notice among his students?
- What is the purpose of the microfinancing program? How is it helping the women involved?
- Why does Heifer International give its recipients livestock rather than simply giving them food or money? Do you think this is a good way to use the organization's resources? Why or why not?

Extension: Divide the class into groups, and have groups brainstorm ways that might be successful in helping the hungry. Ask them to list as many ideas as they can think of, including things they have learned in this lesson.

Ask groups to prepare oral presentations that do the following:

- Describe the ideas they have listed;
- Compare and contrast their ideas to the specific examples they have read about in this lesson; and
- Choose one idea on their list, and discuss reasons why they think this idea might work as well as reasons why it might not be completely effortless to implement.

→ Have students research the issue of hunger in the United States. They can use the Web sites below plus others they find by searching. Ask them to create posters or pamphlets describing some facts and figures hunger in the U.S., the reasons why this is a problem in our wealthy country, and some programs that are attempting to address this problem.

→ Have the class find out about hunger in their own community and plan an action they can take to help this problem on a local level. They can get some ideas from the Know Hunger Web site (link to "Information for Students" and then the "Hunger Service Learning Program").

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