

Simulation: Who's Got the Cookies?

Materials

- "World Population and Food Distribution Chart" (page 3)
- "Continent Signs" (pages 4-5)
- five paper plates
- cookies (such as vanilla wafers or animal crackers, without peanut butter)
- five small sandwich bags
- (optional) cookie jar
- calculator

Getting Ready

- Use the "World Population and Food Distribution" chart (page 3) to count out the number of cookies each continent group will receive. Put each group of cookies in a separate sandwich bag. Place all the small bags into one large bag or cookie jar.
- Print and cut apart the five continent signs (pages 4-5).

Simulation

In some parts of the world, people have three nutritious meals each day, plus snacks. People here may spend lots of money on weight-loss programs. In other places, families have a small dish of rice or a bowl of porridge as their only meal each day. People there do not have enough food or the variety of fruits, vegetables, and proteins needed for their bodies to grow strong and healthy. Let's find out why is this happening. This simulation is called "Who's Got the Cookies?"

[Use the "World Population and Food Distribution" chart to select the number of volunteers needed. Have them stand in front of the class. Divide the volunteers into teams by continent. Hand a continent sign to one member of each team and direct him or her to hold it up. When all the groups are ready, read the signs.]

You stand for much of the world's population. We can get an idea of how people are spread out on different continents. Which areas of the world have more people? Which areas have less? [Allow responses.]

These cookies [hold up cookies] represent the world's food supply. Let's see how food is spread out among the world's people.

[Give one person on each continent team a paper plate. Have other member of the class open and distribute the bags of cookies for each group and place them on the paper plates. Invite students to share their observations and reactions.]

Now let's figure out the total number of cookies available. [Give the calculator to someone who is not on a continent team.] You are the world cookie counter. The people holding the plates will call out the number of cookies on their plate. You need to enter the numbers into the calculator and add them all together.

Cookie counter, please announce the total number of cookies available. (20/10) Audience, what is our world population? (20/10) Hmmm, the total people and cookies are the same. What does this tell you about world population and food supplies? [Let students share their observations. Then have the people in the demonstration sit down.]

Hunger is not caused by a lack of food. We have enough food for every person to receive the amount needed for daily activity and healthy body development. The problem is unequal food distribution – some people get more food than they need and others don't get enough. Many poor people cannot

afford to buy land to grow their own food and they do not have enough money to buy food that other people sell. Disasters like droughts and floods may destroy crops they have managed to grow. Wars that continue for years force people to flee from their homes and land. The poor do not have money to start over in a new place. Hunger is complicated and heartbreaking. Let's pray about this problem.

Pray

[Divide into pairs of small groups to pray. If families are participating, keep family units together for this section.]

World Population and Food Distribution

Class of 50: 20 people and 20 Cookies

Continent	People	Cookies
North America: Canada/USA/Mexico	1	9
Latin America: Central/South America	1	3
Europe	3	5
Africa	3	2
Asia	12	1

Class of 30: 10 people and 10 Cookies

Continent	People	Cookies
North America: Canada/USA/Mexico	.5	4.5
Latin America: Central/South America	.5	1.5
Europe	1	2.5
Africa	2	1
Asia	6	0.5

(Have those representing .5 people kneel down.)

Africa

Asia

Latin

America(Central/South)

Europe

North America

(Canada/USA/Mexico)
