

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

High Food Prices Cause Concern Worldwide, 04/21/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june08/food_4-21.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. **What is happening to the price of food around the world?**

2. **What are some of the causes for the high costs of food?**

3. **Who are the people most dramatically impacted by the rising cost of foods?**

4. **How does the rising cost of food impact global security and stability?**

5. **How is the food cost crisis impacting politicians?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. What do you think world leaders should be doing to deal with the problems caused by the rising costs of food around the world? Come up with a plan and present it to your class.

2. Examine the role biofuels plays in the rising cost of foods. How does a society balance the need for food with the need for sustainable energy? Who are the winners and losers in this struggle? Do you think governments should subsidize ethanol production? What should be done?

3. Visit this food cost crisis site from the BBC:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/world/2008/costoffood/default.stm

Choose a story that you think best describes the effects of rising food prices. Compare your choice with the rest of the class. Why did you choose that story? What do you think will happen?

Extension Activity

Write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.