

# Hunger Survey Version 1

Grades 3-8

Page 1 of 7



## Time

1 hour

## Materials

Hunger Survey quiz, student copy and answer key (*see attachments*)

## Objective

To increase student awareness of the causes of hunger and to dispel common myths about hunger in the U.S.

## Procedure

- Give each student a copy of the *Hunger Survey* (*see attachments*)
- Allow the students 15-20 minutes to answer the survey questions
- In small groups allow students to discuss their answers, ask the students if there were any questions with which their group disagreed on the answers.
- Before discussing answers pass out abbreviated answer sheets to the students (*see attachments*)
- Read aloud each question and discuss the correct answers (*see attachments*)
- Allow time for further questions and discussion after each question

## Possible Actions

- Host a food drive i.e. peanut butter drive or canned tuna drive
- Create a fund drive- *see list of fundraising ideas* – or contact The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts for information & resources.

## MA DOE Standards

### English Language Arts

#### Anchor Standards

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support the conclusions drawn from the text.

8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

### Comprehensive Health

#### Nutrition

3.3 Recognize hunger and satiety cues and how to make food decisions based upon these cues

#### Mental Health

5.2 Apply methods to accommodate a variety of feelings in a constructive manner in order to promote well being

#### Community and Public Health

14.6 Describe how local public health departments have developed and implemented policies to keep communities safe.

## **HUNGER SURVEY ANSWER KEY (TEACHER'S COPY)**

This activity was adapted with permission from Make Hunger History, a "Bread for the World" curriculum.

### **1. There are no hungry people in the United States.**

- **False.** There are 49 million people in the United States who can't always get enough food to eat. More than 16 million of them are children under age 18. That's enough kids to fill 260 football stadiums!

### **2. Only people who are homeless are hungry.**

- **False.** Many people who are not homeless are hungry. Sometimes, when people have jobs that do not pay a lot of money, it's hard to pay rent, phone bills, buy gas, and clothes for the kids, and still have enough money left over for food. Often, food is seen as something people can probably survive a day or two without when money is tight.

### **3. There is enough food to feed everyone in the world.**

- **True.** Researchers have proved that there is more than enough food grown in the world to feed everyone. The problem is not that there isn't enough food, but that some people do not have access to it. They may not have enough money to buy certain expensive foods from the supermarket, or they might live in countries where it is very difficult to grow healthy food.

### **4. The U.S. government spends more than half of its money helping poor people in other countries.**

- **False.** In 2009, the U.S. government spent less than 1 percent of its budget on foreign aid that helps poor people.

### **5. People who are hungry are lazy and don't want to work.**

- **False.** Many people who are hungry are people who shouldn't be expected to work, like children, elderly and disabled people. Many others are working, but have jobs that do not pay enough. Only a small percentage of the people who could work, do not.

### **6. Kids can't do anything to help end hunger.**

- **False.** Kids have a lot of power to help end hunger! First, you can find out everything you can about hunger in your community and around the world. Then, you can organize a food drive, raise money for a local organization that helps hungry people, write letters to your local newspaper about hunger, or teach people in your school and community about the problem and what they can do about it!

### **7. Poverty (being poor) isn't as big a problem today as it was 10 years ago.**

- **False.** In 2000, about 11.3% of Americans were poor. In 2009, 14.3% of the population was poor in the United States. This means that one of every 7 Americans - or 43.6 million people - are poor. The problems of hunger and poverty are not going away. Organizations that provide food to hungry people reported in 2009 a 50% increase over the number of people who came to get food in 2006.

**8. There are more hungry people in big cities than in rural areas in the United States.**

- **False.** Hunger is a problem for adults and children in large and small cities, as well as in small towns and rural areas. While more people live in cities and hunger is more visible in these urban centers, there are people facing hunger in every Western Mass community, and nearly every community nationwide.

**9. Most of the people who get food from organizations that help hungry people in western Massachusetts are children.**

- **False.** A little more than half of the people who get food from organizations that help hungry people are working adults ages 19-55 years old. Many people who do work still need help making ends meet each month. However, 8% are over 65 years old, and 35% are under age 18. One important reason children and elderly are hungry has to do with access to resources. Very young people and very old people cannot work, and so they sometimes do not have much money to buy food. The U.S. government gives money to senior citizens, called social security, but for some it is not enough to pay the bills and still have enough money for food.

**10. Natural disasters like floods and earthquakes are the biggest cause of hunger.**

- **False.** It is true that natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes cause a lot of problems, especially in poor countries that do not have the money to help people rebuild their homes and businesses. And a natural disaster like a drought can cause famine, a very serious kind of hunger that affects a whole region or country. Most of the time, though, hunger is caused by poverty.

## ABBREVIATED ANSWER KEY (FRONT SIDE)

Print page 5 & 6 double-sided. Cut, fold, and pass out answers to students in the class. After the students have fill out their individual true/false quiz, have various students read aloud each question and answer. Use the teacher answer key for additional discussion points.

<b>FALSE</b>	There are 49 million people in the United States who can't get enough food to eat.
<b>FALSE</b>	Many people who are NOT homeless are hungry.
<b>TRUE</b>	Researchers have proved that there is more than enough food grown in the world to feed everyone.
<b>FALSE</b>	In 2009, the U.S. Government spent less than 1 % of its budget on foreign aid that helps poor people.
<b>FALSE</b>	Many people who are hungry are people who shouldn't be expected to work, like children, elderly, and disabled people.
<b>FALSE</b>	Kids have a lot or power to help end hunger.
<b>FALSE</b>	In 2000 about 11.3% of Americans were poor. In 2009, 14.3% of the population was poor in the United States.
<b>FALSE</b>	Hunger is a problem for adults and children in large and small cities, as well as in small towns and rural areas.
<b>FALSE</b>	A little more than half of the people who get food from organizations that help hungry people are working adults ages 19-55 years old.
<b>FALSE</b>	It is true that natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, and droughts make conditions worse, but most of the time, hunger is cause by poverty.

## **ABBREVIATED ANSWER KEY (BACK SIDE)**

Print page 5 & 6 double-sided. Cut, fold, and pass out answers to students in the class. After the students have fill out their individual true/false quiz, have various students read aloud each question and answer. Use the teacher answer key for additional discussion points.

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## ***True or False?***

First, decide whether you think the following statements are true or false. Then, in small groups, discuss your answers. Are there any questions about which your group disagreed? Why?

1.      *True False*      There are no hungry people in the United States.
2.      *True False*      Only people who are homeless are hungry.
3.      *True False*      There is enough food to feed everyone in the world.
4.      *True False*      The U.S. government spends more than half of its money helping poor people in other countries.
5.      *True False*      People who are hungry are lazy and don't want to work.
6.      *True False*      Kids can't do anything to help end hunger.
7.      *True False*      Poverty (being poor) isn't as big a problem today as it was 10 years ago.
8.      *True False*      There are more hungry people in big cities than in rural areas in the United States.
9.      *True False*      Most people who get food from organizations that help hungry people in western Massachusetts are children.
10.     *True False*      Natural disasters like floods and earthquakes are the biggest cause of hunger.