

LESSON 3: WHERE DOES OUR FOOD COME FROM? EXPLORING OUR MEALS

Understanding Goal

- Many natural and human resources are involved in producing and transporting the food we eat.
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Thematic Strands in Social Studies

- People, Places and Environment
 - Production, Distribution and Consumption
 - Global Connections
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Background

Students will have the opportunity to explain the processes, people and resources required at each stage of the supply chain for their favorite foods that have more than one ingredient. This performance of understanding is critical for students in demonstrating their understanding of how a supply chain works and what it requires in terms of resources and labor. It also gives the teacher an opportunity to check for students' understanding and allows teachers to address any misunderstanding or lack of understanding.

Advance Preparation

- Reserve a computer lab; make sure there is an Internet connection. Ask if the librarian can come.
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Lesson Plan

Part 1 (5-10 min)

Tell students that they will be exploring the processes, people and resources that are involved in producing food items of their own choice. Give students several minutes to think about what they want to choose.

Part 2 (25-30 min)

Once students have chosen what food items they want to research, go to the computer lab. Tell students to answer the following questions about their food items:

1. Where do you buy the food?
2. How does the food get to that place from question #1? Who was involved?
3. And how does the food get to that place from question #2? Who was involved?
4. And how does the food get to that place from question #3? Who was involved?
5. Keep on repeating this pattern until you end up at the place(s) where the ingredients of your food item are "born."

Tell students to write a life story of their food items.

Part 3 (5-10 min)

Ask several students to share what they've found out thus far.

Homework / Long-term Assignment

- Students can submit a complete life story of their food items.