



Roots of Hunger

Description

Students will learn about the unequal distribution of food in the world, even in places like New Jersey.

Duration: 15-20 minutes

Grade Levels: Elementary, Middle

Objectives

1. Increase awareness of the impact of hunger.
2. Identify ways in which current systems support this unequal distribution of food.

Material List

1. Approx. 100 total snack items (raisins, grapes, pretzels, etc.)

Activity

1. Divide items (raisins, grapes, pretzels, etc.) into paper bags according to the following distribution pattern. Staple each bag closed. Each student will receive one bag. Make enough bags for the total number of students in your class.

Number of Students	Number of Snacks per Bag
1 student	50 snacks
One-third of the class	10 snacks
One-third of the class	5 snacks
One-third of the class	1 snack

2. Explain to the students that they are going to receive a snack and direct them to NOT open their bags until you say it's okay. Pass out one bag to each student. When everyone has received a bag, instruct the students to open the bags.
3. Ask the students what happened. After listening to the students' initial reaction, tell the students that they have a few minutes to figure out a system in which every student has the same amount of snack. The goal is to work out a way to share the snack as a group.

Discussion Points

- How did you feel when you realized that the snacks had been unevenly distributed?
- How does the larger gap between wealthy and resource-limited in our society contribute to food insecurity? Is there a way to resolve this issue?