

HUNGER 101: ACTIVITY 1



Roots of Hunger

Subjects

Social Studies, Mathematics

Grade Level

6-12

Performance Task

1. Select a nutritious snack (e.g. raisins, grapes, pretzels), divide it into paper bags according to the following distribution pattern and staple each bag closed (if food isn't available, pictures of food, paperclips or counting beads can be substituted).
 - Group 1: Only 1 student is in this group. He or she will receive 1 bag with 50 snacks.
 - Group 2: A third of your class. Each student gets a bag with 10 snacks.
 - Group 3: A third of your class. Each student gets a bag with 5 snacks.
 - Group 4: A third of your class. Each student gets a bag with 1 snack.
 2. Explain to students that they are going to receive a snack and direct them to not open their bags yet. Pass out one bag to each student. When every student has received a bag, instruct students to open their bags.
 3. Ask the students what happened. After hearing students express their initial shock and laughter at seeing the unequal portions, tell students that they have a few minutes to work out a fairer distribution system. Students should be strongly encouraged to work out a way to share their snack as a group, and they should be praised for their efforts.
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Discussion Points

- This exercise approximates the actual distribution of wealth in our society. How did you feel when you realized the snacks had been unevenly distributed?
 - Did you feel that you were in a food-secure group at the beginning of the activity?
 - Unequal distribution is a result of the large gap between the rich and poor in our society. How can this gap lead to malnutrition and hunger for many people? How do you think we can resolve these social issues?
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Pass Skills

- Mathematics Process Standard 1: Problem Solving
 - Mathematics Process Standard 4: Connections
 - Mathematics Content Standard 2: Number Sense and Operation
 - Economics Content Standard 1: The student will develop and apply economic reasoning and decision-making skills.
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Common Core Standards

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- Reason quantitatively and use units to solve problems.
- Make inferences and justify conclusions from sample surveys, experiments and observational studies.