Distribution of Food in our World

Concept: A visual demonstration of the limited food resources and worldwide distribution.

Materials: 10 prop oranges, one sliced 60/30/10.

Procedure: Gather the orange props and ask for 10 volunteers. Use the props to visually represent facts. Ask questions to encourage critical thinking in discussion of these facts.

1. Call 10 children up front to volunteer. "We’re going to pretend that these 10 people are all the people living in the world today, and we’re going to give out all the food resources that we have in the world today."

2. Give two children 8 oranges and the largest slice (to represent 86% of the world’s food) "The wealthiest 20% of the world’s population consumes 86% of the world’s goods and services.

3. Give six children one orange and the medium slice. “60% of the population receives 13% of the world’s goods and services.

4. Give two children the smallest slice of orange. “20% of the population receives 1% of the goods."

5. So, how is this even possible? How does this work? “You two with the 8 oranges, you can’t even hold them all. How does this make you feel? And you guys in the middle, how do you feel? And lastly, my friends on the end... How are you feeling?

6. Discuss how each group might act with their food. “The two people with more than 8 oranges will waste their food because they can’t eat it all. These two represent the United States and other places that have an abundance of food. The six people with only 13% of the world’s food will probably hide the food that they do have from each other. These people represent the 795 million people that are undernourished or will go hungry tonight. The two people with only 1% of the food must struggle to find more because that is not enough to go around. These people represent the people around the world who die each day from hunger or hunger-related causes. Children under the age of 5 are most at risk.

7. What can be done to fix this picture? The 8 people on the right represent those with whom ECHO is working, reducing hunger and improving lives, one farmer and one family at a time. Think about what you can do to help with the problem of world hunger and this unequal distribution of food. Let’s discuss.

Does the world produce enough food to feed everyone?

Yes! In 2008 it was estimated agriculture worldwide produced 2790 calories per person per day. The principal problem is that many people in the world still do not have sufficient income to purchase (or land to grow) enough food. Poverty is the principal cause of hunger.