

World Foods Global Lesson Plan: Comparing Food Costs

Grades 9-12

Rationale: The purpose is to compare how food costs differ for basic supplies in various countries. This will be an overview in the beginning of World Foods. The lesson is to get them discuss and analyze the factors that cause food prices to be different.

Intro: Make a list of these foods on the board or on a ppt: 1 lb hamburger, ½ gal milk, 1 lb coffee beans, 1 lb bananas, loaf of white bread, 1 lb of chicken, 1 dozen eggs, 1 head lettuce, 1 lb dry pasta, 1 lb potatoes, 1 lb white rice, 1 box Cheerios, and a 2-liter of Coke. Have students brainstorm in pairs or tables what they think the price for each is. Then have them write down the cost of a gallon of gasoline also. Discuss the cost of gasoline – is it relevant to the price of food? How?

Procedure: Go to the link and show the food slides: [Food cost comparison](#) . The U.S. price most relevant to MO would be Arkansas. Why are the prices for California and Oregon higher on most things? Also look at the foreign country prices below that list. Prices are wildly different, both higher and lower, depending on the item. Is the price of gasoline a factor in these prices also?

Ask students to work together to come up with reasons for the price differences. This could include inflation and economic situations. Be sure it includes climate, geography of the area, location, farming practices, and seasonal availability. Discuss their reasons. Have them look up specific examples if time permits.

Options:

Depending on time and depth of discussion, students could: research the origins of these foods in the U.S as a price factor; compare a meal cost (such as Thanksgiving dinner) between U.S. regions and/or foreign countries; or choose a country to go more in depth with climate, geography, and farming practice factors.

Resources:

Daily Finance Food Price Comparison slideshow

<http://www.dailyfinance.com/photos/food-price-comparison-around-the-world/?photo=2#!fullscreen&slide=988839>

Numbeo – Website for worldwide data, including food prices

<http://www.numbeo.com/common/>