



LOCAL HUNGER

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Food Banks Activity

Core Activity

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is for students to understand that there are solutions to hunger issues in their community, and that there are organizations that offer support to people in this situation.
- **Instructional method(s):** class discussion
- **Differentiated Instruction:**
 - Students will volunteer verbal answers instead of writing their responses on sticky notes.
- **Estimated time:** 20-25 minutes
- **Steps:**
 1. Explain to students that when people in their community suffer from hunger, they have options and places they can go to ensure they do not go hungry. Ask the question: "Where can people go in your community to access food?"
 2. Promote a class discussion around food banks, by asking:
 - What is a food bank?
 - What do you find at a food bank?
 - What do we donate to a food bank?
 - Who uses a food bank?
 - Why are food banks important?
 3. On chart paper write the title "Food Bank" and distribute three sticky notes to each student.
 4. On each sticky note have students write the following:
 - One question that they have about food banks.
 - One reason why they appreciate food banks.
 - One way that they can support their local food bank.
 5. When the students have completed their sticky notes, ask them to come to the front of the room and post them on the chart paper.
 6. After each student has had a chance to post their sticky notes, go over the display as a class. Discuss student answers and any outstanding questions about food banks.
 7. Explain to students that food banks began over 30 years ago as a short term solution to local hunger. Now, they are a necessity in Canada. Each month over 800,000 Canadians receive food from a food bank, a number that has increased significantly over the last ten years. Explain to students that currently there are over 900 food banks and 2,900 affiliated agencies in Canada. However, these food banks need our help as they rely on the generosity of the community.
 8. Read the following list to reveal current struggles faced by Canadian food banks and some of the ways they are coping with these struggles:
 - 27% of food banks lack adequate funding.
 - 31% of food banks do not have enough food to meet the needs.
 - 50% of food banks have been forced to give out less food than usual.
 - 57% bought more food than usual to meet the need.
 - Nearly half of food banks in Canada have no paid staff.

- 15% report difficulty recruiting enough volunteers to manage everyday operations

Teacher note: these statistics were taken from Food Banks Canada, Hunger Count 2010

<http://www.cafb-acba.ca/main2.cfm?id=10718648-B6A7-8AA0-6A3C6F3CAC0124E1>

9. At this time promote a discussion around what students can do individually and as a class to fight to the local hunger problem and contribute to food banks in their community. Encourage students to go home that night and discuss local hunger and food banks with their parents, this will ignite a family discussion on the topic.

Support students in ending local hunger. Participate in Free The Children's Halloween for Hunger campaign. Learn more at www.weday.com/takeaction.