



LOCAL HUNGER

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

“Needs” versus “Wants” Activity

Orientation Activity

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is for students to develop an understanding of the differences between needs and wants. Students will also recognize that food is a basic human need.
- **Instructional method(s):** class discussion, group work.
- **Differentiated Instruction:**
 - Students use written language instead of verbal language, writing their responses down on paper.
 - Instead of cutting images out of magazines that represent needs and wants, students draw pictures using drawing utensils.
- **Estimated time:** 20-25 minutes
- **Steps:**
 1. Ask students: when they find themselves saying “I need ...,” what are those things? Make a list of needs on the board.
 2. As a class, create a definition of a “need”, and record the definition on the board.
 3. Ask students: when they find themselves saying “I want ...,” what are those things? Make a list of wants on the board.
 4. As a class, create a definition of a “want” and record the definition on the board.
 5. Divide students into groups of four and distribute chart paper, magazines, glue, scissors and markers to each group.
 6. In their groups, ask students to look through magazines and cut out any pictures that they feel represent a need or a want.
 7. As a group, students must cooperatively sort their cut out pictures into “needs” and “wants”, and create a display with their pictures on their chart paper using the glue and markers.
 8. Once groups have completed their displays, gather the class back together for an activity debrief, using these suggested questions.
 - What are some examples of items you listed as needs?
 - What are some examples of items you listed as wants?
 - Did your group disagree on any of these items?
 - What category does food belong to? Why?
 9. Before the conclusion of the activity, ensure students recognize that food is a need necessary for survival.
 10. Display completed projects around the classroom as a reminder of the differences between needs and wants.

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