

Global Food Crisis - What are the causes of the food crisis? (p. 8-13)

Riddle Activity

Distribute copies of riddles for students to solve alone, in pairs or in small groups. Each riddle represents a major cause or factor contributing to the current state of global food insecurity. Alternatively, form six groups in the class and give each one a single riddle. Once they have guessed the riddles and confirmed the correct answers, each group presents its riddle in a creative format for the rest of the class to guess (eg. skit, mime, choral reading, song lyric or charade). Use this activity to bridge to the "Causes" and "Impacts" sections of this guide.

Instructions

Students work alone, in pairs or small groups to solve the following "What am I?" riddles. If needed, provide a possible list of answers to choose from: Meat, Population, Grain, Money, Water, Biofuel, Air, Temperature, Climate, Drought, Oil.

Correct Answers:

#1. Oil #2. Biofuel #3. Climate #4. Meat #5. Grain #6. Money #7. Population

Riddle #1

I exist, but I can't be made.
The world is using more of me than ever before.
But people are talking of using me less.
The food on your table is there thanks to me,
but I'm a hidden ingredient in the food chain.

What am I?

Riddle #2

I'm found in Volkswagons and Volvos.
Brazil is one of my largest producers,
using sugar to make their cars go.
The USA wants to produce more of me
and so does Europe.
Some say I am the answer to a global problem,
others say I am a cause.

What am I?

Riddle #3

I can be hot, cold, wet or dry,
and lately I've gone to extremes.
Humans didn't create me,
yet they have a way of making me change.
Usually I'm harmless,
but depending on my mood, I can be deadly.
Some people don't give me much thought,
others worry I will change the world forever.

What am I?

Riddle #4

Some people avoid me altogether,
But more people are eating me every day.
Some people can't bear to think
of what I used to be.
I can be the first thing off the list
when money is tight.
A lot of resources are needed
to produce just a little bit of me.

What am I?

Riddle #5

I need water and sun but they need to be just right,
and now my reserves are shrinking.
Most people take me for granted,
because I've been around longer than sliced bread.
You can consume me,
or consume something that consumed me first.
I come in many forms,
and I travel with thousands like me.

What am I?

Riddle #6

You can't eat me, but it's hard to eat without me.
I talk without saying a word.
I can grow but I'm not alive.
I make people smile, but I have no personality.
Most people are happy to hold me,
but I don't feel a thing.
Some make lots of me with only a little to start,
but be warned: I go as easy as I come.

What am I?

Riddle #7

I'm huge in China and India,
but not so big in Australia.
I'm growing around the world.
You are part of me and so is your family.
They expect me to keep on growing
with every baby born.

What am I?