

Food Deserts (Topic 5.11: Challenges of Contemporary Agriculture)

Duration

1–2 class sessions of 40 minutes

Resources

1. Study Guide



2. Worksheet



3. Homework



Objectives of Lesson

- To explain the causes and consequences of food deserts
- To identify and describe some of America's worst food deserts
- To analyze and create solutions to decrease the number of food deserts in the United States

College Board Objectives from the 2020–21 CED (Page 100)

Enduring Understanding

- **IMP-5:** Agricultural production and consumption patterns vary in different locations, presenting different environmental, social, economic, and cultural opportunities and challenges.

Learning Objective

- **IMP-5.B:** Explain challenges and debates related to the changing nature of contemporary agriculture and food-production practices.

Essential Knowledge

- **IMP-5.B.3:** Challenges of feeding a global population include lack of food access, as in cases of food insecurity and food deserts; problems with distribution systems; adverse weather; and land use lost to suburbanization.

Suggested Skill

- **Source Analysis:** Compare patterns and trends to draw conclusions.

How to Use this Lesson Plan

This lesson helps students understand one of the challenges of contemporary agriculture—food deserts. The lesson opens with an overview of food security and food deserts in the Study Guide. The Worksheet requires students to analyze a map detailing the distribution of food deserts in the United States and a video about food deserts in South-Central Los Angeles and one man's quest to help solve the food crisis there. Lastly, the Homework

NOTES

Write or type in this area.

asks students to view and respond to a digital article about 10 of America’s worst food desert locations.

This lesson will be most successful if followed in the appropriate sequence—Study Guide, Worksheet, then Homework. This document will help guide you through the lesson, along with providing different ways to adjust the lesson to best meet the needs of your students or use digitally.

Part 1: Study Guide

Distribute the Study Guide to students. Walk students through the Study Guide and allow them time to read, interact, and ask questions. The Study Guide can be completed several different ways. Below are a few suggestions:

- Students can read on their own.
- Collaborative groups—students can collaborate in groups to read and discuss.
- Class discussion—the entire class can read aloud, or you can facilitate discussion as it is read.
- Digitally—students can read/interact in a digital platform.

Part 2: Worksheet

After walking students through the Study Guide, distribute the Worksheet to students. Its completion can be done several different ways. Below are a few suggestions:

- Students can generate responses on their own.
- Collaborative groups—students can collaborate in groups to discuss and record responses.
- Class discussion—the entire class can work together and generate responses collectively.
- Digitally—students can respond to a digital platform and view class results.
- Link to video “Ron Finley: Urban Gangsta Gardener in South-Central LA”:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7t-NbF77ceM>

Part 3: Homework

This is the final component of the lesson, asking students to view a digital article from Business Insider.

- Link to Website:
<https://www.businessinsider.com/food-deserts-urban-2011-10>

NOTES

Write or type in this area.

SUGGESTED ANSWERS

Worksheet

Part 1: Stimulus Analysis

1. What are examples of clustering found on the map?

Answers will vary.

Clustering occurs where large brown patches exist. Specifically, clustering occurs near the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia, the Deep South (from parts of Louisiana to parts of Georgia), eastern Arizona/western New Mexico, and the upper North Central United States (Dakotas).

2. What is the correlation between the location of food deserts and higher levels of poverty?

As a general rule, food deserts tend to dominate in places where poverty rates are higher.

Part 2: Video Analysis

Answers will vary.

Homework

Answers will vary for the first part (research data table).

1. What are some effects of food deserts?

Answers will vary, but they may include the following: they contribute to obesity and other diet-related illnesses, they force families living in these areas to use valuable time traveling to neighboring areas, and these families usually lack the resources to improve their situation.

2. What are some solutions to decrease the number of food deserts?

Answers will vary, but they may include the following: "pop-up" grocery stores, urban gardens, mobile groceries, and vegetable prescriptions.

NOTES

Write or type in this area.

Food Deserts (Topic 5.11: Challenges of Contemporary Agriculture)

Analyzing America’s Worst Food Deserts

Directions: As you explore the “10 American Food Deserts Where It Is Impossible To Eat Healthily” website, fill out the table below on any FIVE of the 10 locations referenced.

Link to Website: <https://www.businessinsider.com/food-deserts-urban-2011-10>

Food Desert Location	Information

1. What are some effects of food deserts?

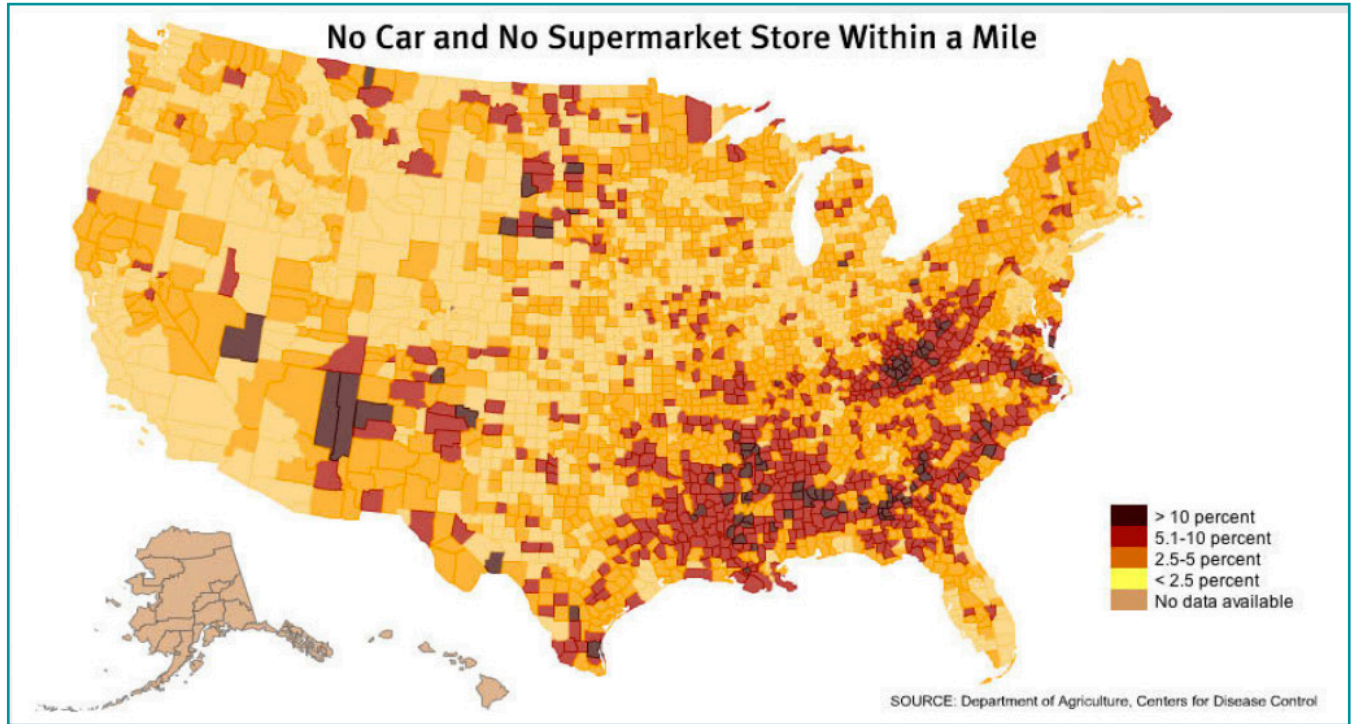
Write or type your response in this area.

2. What are some solutions to decrease the number of food deserts?

Write or type your response in this area.

Part 1: Stimulus Analysis

Directions: Study the stimulus and answer the questions that follow.



1. What are examples of clustering found on the map?

Write or type your response in this area.

2. What is the correlation between the location of food deserts and higher levels of poverty?

Write or type your response in this area.

Part 2: Video Analysis —“Ron Finley: Urban Gangsta Gardener in South Central LA”

Directions: As you watch and after you watch the video, complete the What The ?! table. For the “?” write down one question you have, and for the “!” write down one thing that stood out to you.

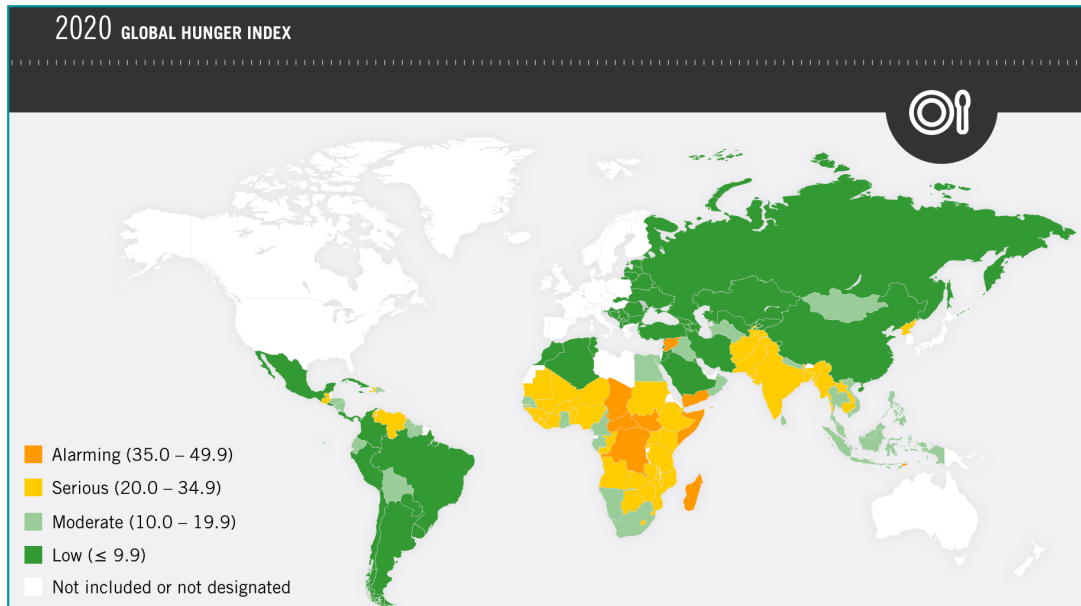
Link to Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7t-NbF77ceM>

?	
!	

Food Deserts (Topic 5.11: Challenges of Contemporary Agriculture)

Food Insecurity and the Global Hunger Index

Access to food is not evenly distributed. Depending on location, food may or may not be easily accessed by people. Food insecurity refers to the state of being without reliable access to food on a regular basis. Generally speaking, the global distribution of food insecurity mirrors the level of development. Locations suffering from food insecurity tend to be places where overall development is low. Each year, multiple countries contribute to publish the “Global Hunger Index Report.” The findings for 2020 are presented. You can see how food insecurity (represented by hunger) is highest in places where development is low, such as Sub-Saharan Africa.



Food Deserts and Food Oases

A food desert occurs in areas with limited access to affordable and nutritious foods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables. In contrast, a food oasis is an area with high access to supermarkets and other stores with fresh fruits and vegetables. Food deserts can exist in urban areas as well as rural areas. They tend to be populated with lower-income residents who have reduced access to transportation, both public and private. As a result, this makes those areas less attractive to large supermarket chains. Instead, the available foods here are often processed and unhealthy.



A typical aisle in an urban corner store full of dried, processed, and canned items, which tend to have lower nutritional values



A typical selection of fresh vegetables from the produce section of a supermarket