



Oh Soy Good! Cultural Awareness Research Project

The purpose of this lesson is to learn about different cultures, food security and to research agriculture practices that contribute to food security. You will select a country to complete a research project and presentation.

Background:

What is food security?

The World Food Summit of 1996, defined food security as existing “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”. (<http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story028/en/>)

Food security is determined by:

- **Availability:** sufficient quantities of food are *available* on a consistent basis.
- **Access:** there are sufficient *resources* to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
- **Use:** appropriate use including preparation and handling, as well as adequate water and sanitation.

Food security is a complex issue, linked to health, economic development, environment, and trade in countries where there is food scarcity. There is a great deal of debate around food security. Think about these statements:

- There is enough food in the world to feed everyone adequately; the problem is distribution.
- Current levels of production cannot meet future food needs due to population growth.
- National food security is a priority.
- National food security is no longer necessary because of global trade.
- Globalization may lead to the persistence of food insecurity and poverty in rural communities.

Which ones do you agree with?

Agriculture remains the largest employment sector in most developing countries and international agriculture agreements are crucial to a country's food security. Some critics argue that trade liberalization may reduce a country's food security by reducing agricultural employment levels. Concern about this has led a group of World Trade Organization (WTO) member states to recommend that current negotiations on agricultural agreements allow developing countries to re-evaluate and raise tariffs on key products to protect national food security and employment. They argue that WTO agreements, by pushing for the liberalization of crucial markets, are threatening the food security of whole communities.



Related issues include:

- What is the net impact of the further liberalization of food and agricultural trade, considering the widely differing situations in developing countries?
- To what extent can domestic economic and social policies - and food, agricultural and rural development policies - offset the diverse (and possibly negative) impacts of international policies, such as those relating to international trade?
- How can the overall economic gains from trade benefit those who are most likely to be suffering from food insecurity?
- Do gains “trickle down” to enhance economic access to food for the poor?
- How can food and agricultural production and trade be restrained from the over-exploitation of natural resources that may jeopardize domestic food security in the long term?
- How to ensure that imported food products are of acceptable quality and safe to eat?

Websites to visit:

<http://www.fao.org>, <http://www.who.int/en/>, <http://www.unep.org/>,

Where is your country?

Include a map, average rainfall, soil type, weather and climate, and average area.

What is the main crop produced in the country?

Include the crops type/usage; food, fiber, fuel or is it used for all three. Do they import/export their crops? What is the amount of crop production (bushels/year)

Food availability:

What is the milk source for their country? What are common food dishes?

What types of agricultural practices are utilized?

How do farmers plant, till and collect crops? How are livestock raised and handled?

Food Biosecurity

- Describe processing and distribution of food products quality assurance of food/systems
- Do they have any hygiene practice/training?
- What are common imports and exports?
- Do they vaccinate their animals?

Customs

Barriers in cross-cultural relationships: What are some cultural gestures you should be mindful of? Are there any cultural concerns with clothing and food?



Oral Presentation

You should have at least three different credible sources. Your presentation can take any form: video, Poster Presentation, Powerpoint, Prezi ect.. You may work in groups of four or individually for this project.

Oh Soy Good! Research Project Rubric				
	4	3	2	1
Selection of Country/Culture	Great work! You have all of the information needed!	Almost there.. You need to add more information.	You have began the process ..keep adding information	You've missed the mark, keep trying!
Crop Production	Great work! You have all of the information needed!	Almost there.. You need to add more information.	You have began the process ..keep adding information	You've missed the mark, keep trying!
Food Availability-main dishes and milk production	Great work! You have all of the information needed!	Almost there.. You need to add more information.	You have began the process ..keep adding information	You've missed the mark, keep trying!
Agricultural Practices	Great work! You have all of the information needed!	Almost there.. You need to add more information.	You have began the process ..keep adding information	You've missed the mark, keep trying!
Food Biosecurity	Great work! You have all of the information needed!	Almost there.. You need to add more information.	You have began the process ..keep adding information	You've missed the mark, keep trying!
Customs	Great work! You have all of the information needed!	Almost there.. You need to add more information.	You have began the process ..keep adding information	You've missed the mark, keep trying!
Oral presentation	Great work! You have all of the information needed!	Almost there.. You need to add more information.	You have began the process ..keep adding information	You've missed the mark, keep trying!
Total				