



COMMUNITY FOOD SOURCE INVENTORY ACTIVITY

Conduct a Community Food Source Inventory and share your activity results online to compare with other classrooms from around the world. Here are the steps to get started!

1 Ask a Question

How diverse are the food sources in your community and where are they located? How far do they travel to reach you? Do you think the food sources for your community are sustainable? Guide a classroom discussion to help students think about the above investigation questions to set the context for the activity.

As of 2008, more than 50 percent of the world's population lives in cities for the first time in the history of the planet. This means that an increasing number of people will be relying on food production and distribution systems for their food supply. Interruptions in production and or transportation can affect food security. For more resources and background materials, see the content at www.aag.org/gcefoodsecurity.

2 Get data to Observe

Distribute the MyCOE Community Food Source Inventory Guide (pg 2) to students. Ask them to find a small number of products across food categories. They may fill in their list at home or alternatively bring the products (or just the labels) to class to do this activity together. Record the (approximate) location of the food source

in the table. Provide any extra details (where it was purchased from or name of the store) in the notes column.

3 Use these GIS tools to Analyze

Compile all of the information from the student's lists together. Compute the approximate distance that each product took from its origin to your destination in the last column using the online tool in the link provided. Please use kilometers so that we can compare across all classrooms that submit information to us. Tally

the total number of products and find the average distance of all of the products that your classroom identified (total distance divided by number of items). Report that number in the box on the bottom of the page. *OPTIONAL: Expand the project by creating a map of the origins of the food sources on a hand drawn outline map of the world, or use Google Maps to create markers where each product came from.*

4 Develop ideas for a Solution

Discuss with students geographic factors that help explain where different kinds of products might come from. For instance, fresh fruit usually comes from places near the destination, although tropical fruit only grows in certain regions. Are these patterns sustainable? What risks do these patterns present for a secure

food source? Other discussion topics might include production issues such as weather conditions, use of fertilizers or hybrid seeds, and food distribution such as fuel prices, transportation options, import/export restrictions, urban development, etc. Consider expanding this activity to include how foods are prepared, how are they stored (i.e. refrigeration) or cooked (gas, electricity, wood)? Where do these appliances come from? What energy sources or natural resources are necessary? Is it sustainable? Ask students to consider which items or activities are most sustainable? How do they think the types of local food sources compare to other communities in other locations? *(If you mapped them, what do you notice about the location and distribution of the food sources in your community?)* Ask students to write a brief paragraph summarizing their findings and any new questions they have.

5 Take action and Share it!

Share your project results with other MyCOE participants and begin a classroom exchange. Use the instructions on page 3. This can be done by the adult point of contact for the project. If you made your own hand drawn or digital map, follow STEP ONE and submit it to www.mycoe.org to be considered for recognition or

prizes related to UN Rio+20. To be able to share your results with other MyCOE GCE classrooms, add a project point to the online MyCOE Project Exchange map following the instructions under STEP TWO. View other projects at MyCOE GCE sites and exchange comments on the projects in STEP THREE.



my community, our earth

GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING

for Sustainable Development

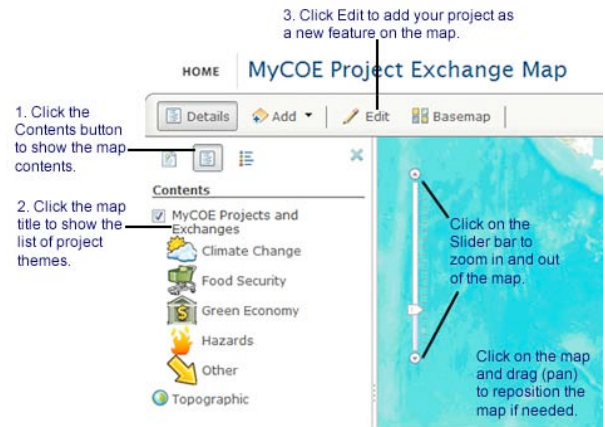
Share your project and exchange comments with other MyCOE participants!

STEP ONE (Optional): If you made a map during the themed activity, please report your project to MyCOE to be considered for recognition or prizes related to the UN Rio+20 conference.

1. Go to mycoe.org, click on “5. Take action and Share it!” button at the top of the page to submit your project details using the MyCOE online submission form.

STEP TWO: How to share your project on our MyCOE Project Exchange map

1. Go to mycoe.org, click on the “3. Use these GIS tools to Analyze” button at the top of the page.
2. Enter “MyCOE Project Exchange Map” into the search box (where it says, “Find maps, applications, and more...”). Click on the search icon or hit the Enter key.
3. Select the link “MyCOE Project Exchange Map” from the results list.



4. Simply click *Open* or select “Open in ArcGIS.com map viewer” in the drop down menu below the map icon.
5. To add your project to the map, zoom in or out using the slider bar on the map and click on the map and drag (pan) to reposition the map in order to find and view your location.
6. Click on the *Contents* button to display the map contents. Click on the map title under contents to display the list of project themes.
7. Click on the *Edit* button to add a point for your project to the map.
8. Click on the project theme icon for the project you would like to add to the map then move your mouse to the location on the map where you wish to add the point and click on the map.
9. Enter the details about your project in the fields in the pop up box. Be sure to type in one of the five project themes since the theme field will determine your project icon! There are hints to help you input the correct information and any entry can be edited and updated if needed. If you have a link to a project photo or map, include it with your details. Click Close.
10. Your project and details are now displayed on the map! All changes are automatically saved when you close the browser window.
11. Return to the map occasionally to check your project point on the map to see if you have any comments or questions.

STEP THREE: How to view and comment on other projects displayed on the MyCOE Project Exchange map

1. Click on a project icon on the map to view the project details for that project.
2. To add your comments and questions, click *Edit* at the bottom of the pop up box.
3. Enter your comments or questions into the appropriate fields.
4. Email the adult point of contact to inform them of your submitted comments and your exchange information.
5. Click close and all changes are saved automatically.

