
World hunger

WORKSHEET A

In 2009, the number of hungry people in the world – meaning malnourished people, who are not able to eat enough food to be healthy – reached one billion for the first time.

It is difficult not to be shocked by the fact that more than one in seven people on the planet do not have enough to eat. This proportion has fallen in the last 50 years, but because the world's population has risen sharply in the same period, the total number of hungry people has increased. By the end of this year, more than 35 million people will have died as a result of not having enough to eat, which is about one death every second. Hunger kills more people per year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

The UN estimates that almost two-thirds of the world's malnourished people are in Asia, which is of course the world's most populous continent. More than a quarter are in sub-Saharan Africa, which has a much lower population than Asia but is the region of the world with the highest percentage of hungry people. Almost all of the rest are in Latin America, North Africa and the Caribbean. In the richest regions of the world there are only a tiny number of people who don't have enough to eat.

There are many reasons for world hunger, and disagreement about which are the most important. They include wars, droughts, floods, and the overuse of farming land – all of which affect food production. Many people also blame speculation for pushing up the prices of basic foods in the global market. But the most important reason is, quite simply, poverty – which has increased recently due to the economic effects of the financial crisis of 2008.

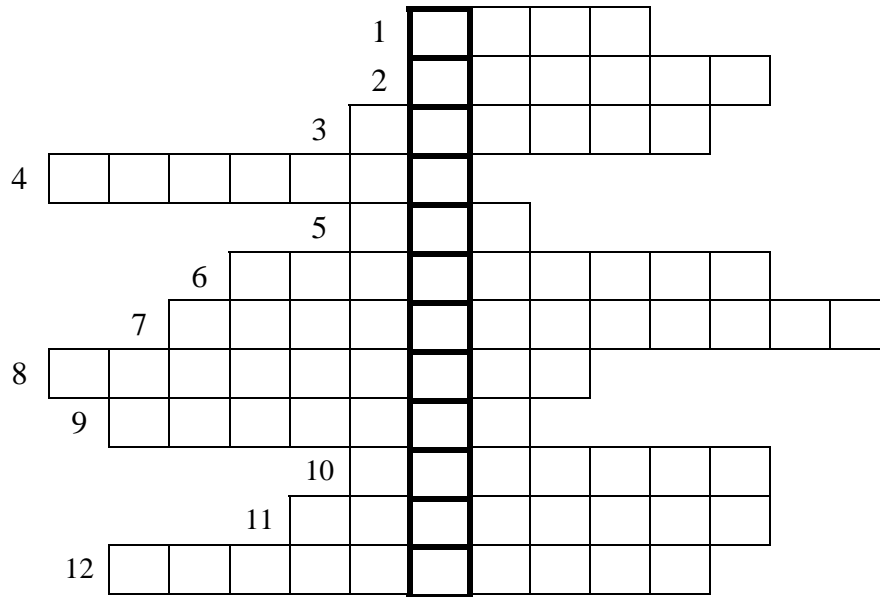
Although many people make the obvious point that there would be less hunger if the global population were smaller, few people would argue that there is not enough food to go around. The basic problem seems to be not a lack of food, but its distribution. In the last 50 years, global food production has risen even more quickly than the global population (although obviously it cannot go on increasing forever), and there are of course many areas of the world in which people generally have more than enough food, and where obesity is a far bigger problem than hunger.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, a synonym for 'hunger' (in the sense that the word is used in the text on Worksheet A) will read from top to bottom.



1. There are _____ hungry people in the world than ever before.
2. Although so many people are hungry, it doesn't seem to be true that there isn't enough food in the world to go _____.
3. _____ obviously have a bad effect on food production.
4. More than one _____ people are malnourished.
5. _____-Saharan Africa has the highest proportion of malnourished people in the world.
6. Asia is the _____ with the highest number of hungry people.
7. The text suggests that if the _____ of the world's food were different, there would be less hunger.
8. There was a _____ crisis in 2008.
9. _____ is a problem that comes from people eating too much, not too little.
10. Hunger is generally not a problem in the _____ regions of the world.
11. Like floods, _____ also have a bad effect on food production.
12. The _____ of the world's people who are hungry is lower than it was 50 years ago.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Most of the text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but contains some mistakes. Fifteen of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

In 2009, the number of hungry people in the world – meaning (1) **nourished** people, who are not able to eat enough food to be healthy – reached one billion for the first time.

It is difficult not to be shocked by the fact that more than one (2) **in** seven people on the planet do not have enough to eat. This (3) **portion** has fallen in the last 50 years, but because the world's population has risen (4) **shiplly** in the same period, the total number of hungry people has increased. By the end of this year, more than 35 million people will have died as a result of not having enough to eat, which is about one (5) **dead** every second. Hunger kills more people per year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

The UN (6) **estimates** that almost two-(7) **threes** of the world's malnourished people are in Asia, which is of course the world's most (8) **populous** continent. More than a (9) **fourth** are in sub-Saharan Africa, which has a much lower population than Asia but is the region of the world with the highest percentage of hungry people. Almost all of the rest are in Latin America, North Africa and the Caribbean. In the richest regions of the world there are only a tiny number of people who don't have enough to eat.

There are many reasons for world hunger, and disagreement about which are the most important. They include wars, (10) **rougths**, floods, and the over-use of farming land – all of which (11) **effect** food production. Many people also (12) **blane** speculation for pushing up the prices of basic foods in the global market. But the most important reason is, quite simply, (13) **poorety** – which has increased recently due to the economic effects of the financial (14) **crise** of 2008.

Although many people (15) **do** the obvious point that there would be less hunger if the global population were smaller, few people would argue that there is not enough food to (16) **go** around. The basic problem seems to be not a (17) **back** of food, but its (18) **disbitrution**. In the last 50 years, global food production has (19) **risen** even more quickly than the global population (although obviously it cannot go on increasing forever), and there are of course many areas of the world in which people generally have more than enough food, and where obesity is a far bigger problem than (20) **hungry**.

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