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Activity

Quiz: Food security

This short quiz could be used as an introduction to the theme of food security. It could be used as a bit of fun at the start or end of a lesson. It is designed to help students start thinking about issues surrounding food supply and people who lack food security. The correct answers are given below, along with some additional information.

- 1 The correct answer is C, 700 million. Specifically, the UN estimated 675 million people, or 8% of the world's population, experienced persistent food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition.
- 2 The correct answer is B, Africa. Around 300 million/20% of Africa's population face food shortages and food insecurity (2024–25 data). The total number of people in Asia is actually higher – around 320 million – but this is only around 7% of Asia's total population.
- 3 The correct answer is C, cassava. It is a drought tolerant root crop that is a staple food across most of Africa. Nigeria is the world's largest producer. It is also called Manioc.
- 4 The correct answer is A, 1 million. They were concentrated in Sudan, Gaza, South Sudan, Mali and Yemen. Famine is a catastrophic shortage of food leading to severe malnutrition, illness and risk of death. It is relatively rare, and most often found in conflict zones. See: <https://fews.net/>
- 5 The correct answer is D, food desert. These are often lower income urban neighbourhoods with no easy access to fresh food (grocers, supermarkets) but often lots of fast food outlets (sometimes called a 'food swamp'). A food oasis is the opposite i.e. higher income areas with numerous independent fresh food retailers.
- 6 The correct answer is D, pork. Pork accounts for 36% of global meat consumption followed by chicken (32%), beef (24%) and other meats like lamb (5%). Pork has traditionally been important in European and East Asian diets (it is of course not eaten at all by some groups for religious and cultural reasons).
- 7 The correct answer is A, China. China is by far the biggest producer of tomatoes followed by India (around 20–25 million tonnes), the USA and Türkiye.
- 8 The correct answer is B, cut flowers. Kenya's flower exports are 4th after the Netherlands, Colombia and Ecuador. The industry employs at least 150,000 people in Kenya. Kenya is the 3rd largest tea producer, much of it for export.
- 9 The correct answer is C, 37%. Food prices increased by about 5% between 2015 and 2020 in the UK, so recent increases have been dramatic and generally outpaced increases in pay / benefits, so food for many became less affordable.
- 10 The correct answer is B, avocado. Mexico is the world's largest exporter but mostly to the USA. The biggest source of avocados coming to the UK is Peru. This raises 'food miles' issues and food security issues.