

# Global Hunger Simulation

For this activity, you will need a box of crackers and 21 index cards. Before class, write the following country names on the given number of index cards:

- United States -- 2 cards
- Brazil –1 card
- India – 6 cards
- Hungary – 1 card
- China – 10 cards
- Kenya – 1 card

Depending on the number of students in your class, distribute each index card randomly to one or two students. This card indicates where they live for the activity. Have the students from each country sit together.

**Teacher:** Today we are going to spend some time thinking about food on a global basis. I have given each of you a card with a country listed on it and you are now sitting with other citizens of your country. The proportions you are broken into are roughly indicative of the proportions of population density in our world today. You'll notice that the United States citizens only make up a small portion of that population. When I say go, you will do a few things in your group. First, you'll choose a leader. I will bring around some crackers to each country that represent food for that country. I will give the food to your leader, who will then distribute it to the other members in any manner he or she sees fit. Do not eat the food yet, just distribute it, and then stop. What can I clarify? "Go."

Give each country the following number of crackers:

- U.S. – 9 crackers
- Brazil – 3 crackers
- India – 12 1/2 crackers
- Hungary – 1 2/3 crackers
- China – 3 1/2 crackers
- Kenya – 1/8 crackers

Watch students as each group chooses how to distribute the crackers.



**Teacher:** Now, let's go around the room and see how each country divided their food. I want each country's leader to tell us their country name, total amount of crackers and method of distribution.

After all the groups have reported, lead the discussion with the following questions. Students should discover through the discussion that there are two main issues: amount of available food and distribution.

1. What country has the most people? Most food? Why aren't they the same country?
2. Which countries have enough food?
3. Which countries do not have enough food?
4. What are some different ways to distribute the food (fairly and unfairly)?
5. Whose responsibility is it to make sure food is distributed to everyone?
6. What can the food-rich countries do to make the situation fairer?
7. What can governments (United Nations Millennium Goals) and nonprofits (Feeding America, Save Our Strength, World Food Program) do to reduce food insecurity?
8. What can families and young people do?

