



The Missing Food Mystery

What can we do to reduce food waste?

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How to read the notes:

1. Teacher script is indicated by **T: and is bolded**.
2. Teacher actions are shown in *(parenthesis and italics)*
3. Opportunities for ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES or written student responses in the MYSTERY DATA LOG are shown in ALL CAPS.

Teacher (T): Over the next few days (or weeks) we are going to solve a mystery together. What is a “mystery”?

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES.

T: Yes, a “mystery” can be a kind of story, or it can mean something that is puzzling or hard to understand.

T: We are going to engage in six activities to explore food waste and simple actions we can take at home and at school to keep food from going missing.

Missing Food Mystery Workshop
Activity 1: What's the missing food mystery?
Why do we care?



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T: The theme of our mystery today is “Missing Food”. Does anyone here like food? Me too! OK team, let’s all silently think of three foods we love.

ACTIVITY 1A: Write your favorite food in your MYSTERY DATA LOG

T: Now let’s hear some of your delicious favorites

STUDENTS SHARE FAVORITE FOOD FROM THEIR MYSTERY DATA LOG

(Teacher calls on 5-7 students quick “popcorn style” and writes their favorite food on the board . The list will be to revisited in next activity).

T: Great choices. You're making me hungry. Ok, everyone who didn’t get to share, on the count of three we’re all going to whisper our one top favorite food. 1-2-3...

ALL CLASS SHARE

Did You Know:

In the USA, 1 out of 4 bags of food goes missing every week!



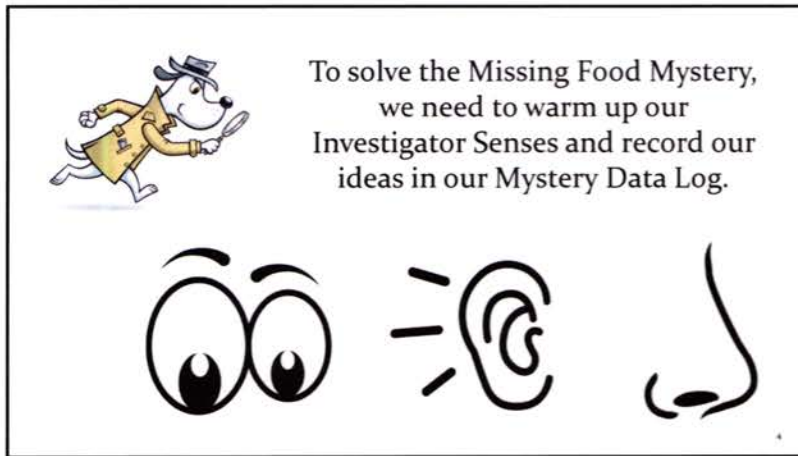
Where does it go?

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T: It's clear that we are a group that loves food and why not! Food is wonderful! So, this really brings us back to the mystery.

ACTIVITY 1B: MYSTERY DATA LOG: WHERE DO YOU THINK THE MISSING FOOD GOES?

T: Why is it that if we love food so much, and we all know that we need it to survive, that so much food gets wasted in this country every day. In fact, the average American family wastes 25% to 35% of the food we buy every week.



(Teacher can use this slide for grades 2-3)

T: To investigate, we need to warm up our investigator senses. First let's warm up our investigator EYES, let's open our eyes as WIDE as we possibly can, then SCRUNCH them into tiny little eyeballs (repeat) Now, look up! Look down! Look to your left and look to your right. Now focus on one thing with your investigator eyeballs!

(Teacher asks students what they saw with their "investigator eyes")

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES

T: GREAT, let's warm up our investigator EARS, warm up your ears and let's listen very carefully (Teacher pauses for a moment. Ask students what they hear with their "investigator" ears.)

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES

T: Finally, you never know what kind of clues you can sniff out if you use your investigator NOSES, let's warm up our investigator noses. Let's take a moment and smell.

(Teacher asks students what they smelled with their "investigator noses")

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES

T: Alright we are all warmed up and ready to investigate! We will use our senses to gather more data and make records in our MYSTERY DATA LOGS.

ACTIVITY 1C: STUDENTS RECORD IN THEIR MYSTERY DATA LOGS WHAT THEY SAW, HEARD, AND SMELLED.

T: If we're going to talk about missing food look at this amazing list of food we started earlier. Remember, a quarter or (25%) of our favorite foods go missing every week.

(Teacher circles a quarter of listed foods and crosses them out with a big x)!

T: So, let's start with an important question... WHY is missing food a problem? Everyone put on your detective hat and put your ideas in your MYSTERY DATA LOG.

ACTIVITY 1CD: STUDENTS RECORD IN THEIR MYSTERY DATA LOGS THEIR IDEAS ABOUT "WHY MISSING FOOD IS A PROBLEM AND WHY IT MATTERS?"

To solve the Missing Food Mystery,
we need to think like scientists and record our data.

Seven (7) things scientists do to investigate an issue.



Ask Questions
Observe
Experiment
Gather data
Test Ideas
Read Research
Draw Conclusions



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(OPTIONAL: Teacher may want to use this slide for grades 4-5)

T: How do scientist investigate an issue (“mystery”)?

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES

(Teacher shows the List of things scientists do to study an issue.)

ACTIVITY 1D: STUDENTS COPY THE LIST IN THEIR **MYSTERY DATA LOG**.

T: How many of these scientific steps did we think of?

T: If we’re going to talk about missing food look at this amazing list of food we started earlier, so we can be sure to keep a look out while we try to track down all of that missing food. Remember, a quarter (25%) of our favorite foods go missing every week.

(Teacher circles a quarter of list possible crosses them out with a big x)!

T: Let’s start with an important question. WHY is missing food a problem?

ACTIVITY 1E: Write in your MYSTERY DATA LOG, “Why is missing food a problem? Why does it matter?”

Why does missing food matter in the world?



Of the 7.9 billion people on the planet, an estimated 770 million faced hunger in 2020 according to the United Nations.

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(Teacher asks students to share ideas they wrote in their MYSTERY DATA LOGS about why missing food is a problem and why it matters)

ORAL STUDENT RESPONSES FROM THEIR MYSTERY DATA LOGS

(Teacher shows image and defines insecure).

T: Insecure means people don't have a regular or reliable source of food. They might get a little food one day and have no food the next day. How many people in the world don't have enough food?

ALL CLASS SHARE

T: That's right 770 million people in the world do not have enough food to eat.

Why does
missing food
matter in the
USA?



Of the 330 million people in the United States, an estimated 38.3 million were food insecure in 2020, according to the USDA.

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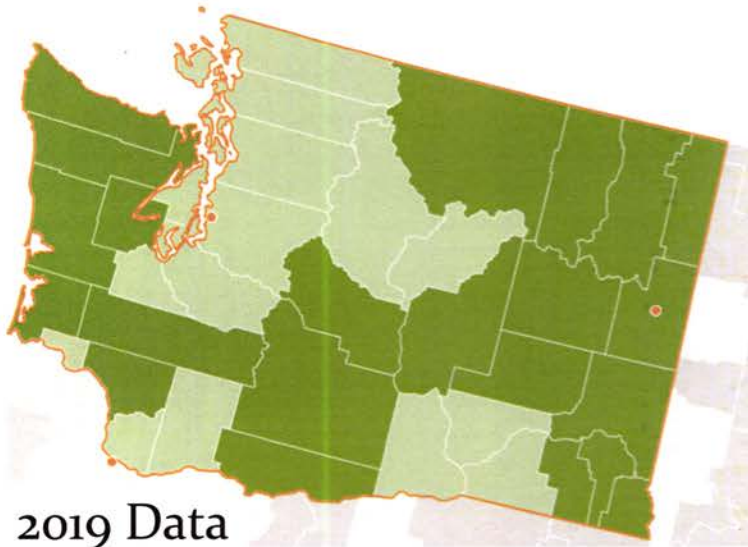
(Teacher shows image).

T: How many people in our country, the United States of America don't have enough food?

ALL CLASS SHARE

T: That's right over 38 million people in our country do not have enough food.

Why does it matter in Washington State?



- One million Washington residents visited a food bank in the past year.
- 1 in 10 people in Washington regularly struggle with hunger.
- 1 in 6 Washington kids live in a household that struggles to have enough food for the family.

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T: Right here in our state and in Spokane county people are struggling to feed their families. The orange dot shows where we live in Spokane county. Enough food is produced to feed everyone in the world, but 25% - 35% of that food is wasted.

T: How many of you wrote in your MYSTERY DATA LOG that one reason missing food is a problem is because there are hungry people in the world? If you did put a star by it. If you didn't, please add it to your reasons now.

STUDENTS LOOK AT THEIR LISTS AND ADD A STAR OR THE IDEA THAT PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY AND DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOOD.

T: In Activity 2 we will look at another reason missing food matters and look at one food example, the banana.