

Lesson Plans to accompany “[The Importance of School Meals - Photographic Exhibition](#)”

Overview:

The photographic exhibition focuses on the World Food Programme (WFP) School Meals projects in Ethiopia, Haiti, Bolivia, Niger, Tanzania and Nepal. With Canadian support through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), in 2011 WFP served a nutritious meal to 26 million school children in 60 countries. The photographs, along with the accompanying text, help to explain the many important benefits of providing children with nutritious school meals.

From a child’s perspective

Have you ever heard the expression *pictures are worth a thousand words*? Photographs are powerful. They capture a story in an instant. In this photo exhibition, you’ll see WFP’s school meals program at work. You’ll see the students’ plates and cups filled to the brim with a simple mix of rice and beans that gives them the energy to learn. You’ll see how excited the students are as they line up at lunchtime. It will be clear that -- like you -- lunchtime is one of their favourite times of the day.

What does it mean to see a program like this at work? In some of the photographs, you won’t even see the school meal. Instead, you’ll see what the school meal powers. Students raising their hand in class; students excited to learn; students talking with friends. A school meal is an opportunity.

For hungry children worldwide, the promise of receiving a WFP meal at school can mean the difference between getting an education or not. This lesson taps into the power of the exhibition photos and the story of one girl who receives a WFP meal at school. This will help you start a vital conversation with your students about the importance of school meals in the lives of young people.

What does your lunch power?

Supplies needed:

[Photographic exhibition 12 prints or online version](#)

Internet connection

Overhead projector/smart board.

Pencils and notebook



Introduction

Ask the students to think about global hunger and ask them what they associate with the word hunger. Hand out the [Eleven Myths on Global Hunger](#)

You can break the class into groups and assign each group a couple of myths to discuss - or discuss the factsheet as a class.

Questions:

- What myths did they believe before reading the reality?
- What surprised them?

Having yourself already looked at the [Facts about hunger](#), discuss the [hunger stats](#) with your students

Go on to discuss how the problem of hunger can be solved

- A. Ask the class what are some situations in which people might need food assistance?
Examples: natural disasters, drought etc.
- B. Project WFP's 2012 [Global Hunger Map](#) onto the board
 - Guide students through what the different colors mean. Have them find their home country on the map. What can they learn about hunger in their home country based on this map?
 - What surprised them about the map?
 - Tell the class they are about to meet a student like them from Kenya. What can they learn about where she lives based on this hunger map? What are some of the challenges she might face?

The Bigger Picture of Hunger: Weaving Together the Photographic Story of WFP School Meals

- A. Have students independently examine the photographs in the exhibition; looking at the prints, on a computer or as a class projected onto the smart board. Write the following things on the board for the students to look for in the photographs and have them take notes for each photograph on what they see:
 - What does a school meal look like?
 - What are the similarities and differences between these students and students at your school?
 - What are some of the activities the students participate in?
 - What adjectives does each photo make you think of?
 - What emotion does each photo make you feel?



B. Break students into small groups and assign each small group a photograph. Assign them the following questions to discuss as a small group and then have them present their key findings to the class.

- How does this photograph help you better understand WFP's school meals program?
- How would you describe the school meal program in one sentence to a younger student?
- How does this photograph compare to what you learned about hunger earlier in the lesson with the myths and hunger map?
- What can a photograph help you understand better than statistics?



WFP School Meals at Work in Kenya: One Girl's Story

Meet Molly

A: Introduce the Molly's World video by saying and writing on the board: This is Molly. She receives a meal every day at her school in Nairobi, Kenya. She's just one of nearly 26 million children who in 2011 received nutritious meals from WFP at school. Her story shows what school meals mean in her life.

As a class, watch the [two-minute animated video](#) introduction to Molly and school meals.

Molly's Hunger Quiz: Put all that your students have learned to the test by taking the Molly's World quiz as a class. For every completed quiz, a meal will be donated to a hungry child.

B: Then, as a class to watch the video: Molly's World 6 minute [condensed video](#)

C: After the video, break up students into small groups to discuss the following:

- What was in Molly's WFP school meal?
- What can Molly now do, thanks to her daily school meal?
- How might Molly's life be different if she didn't receive a school meal?
- How much do you think it costs WFP to provide one School Meal? (answer in [Two Minutes to Learn About School Meals](#))
- Why might school meals be important to poor students?
- How many elementary-school age children do you think go to school hungry every day? (Answer: There are currently 66 million elementary-school age children who go to school hungry every day.)



Conclusion: How would you end world hunger?

To conclude the class, write your students' ideas on the board and encourage discussion.

Your class can help feed a child like Molly by taking part in the Canadian Free Rice Competition.

[Freerice.com](http://freerice.com) is an online educational game. With every correct answer 10 grains of rice is donated to WFP to feed the hungry.

Let's see which Canadian class can donate the most rice by the end of the school year in 2013 while learning vocabulary, language, math, geography or science skills.

How the competition works:

Create a group under your school name at [Freerice.com/teachers](http://freerice.com/teachers) follow the instructions to register your class (you can have 40 students play under one email address). To be part of the competition, register your group's name starting with the prefix "The Importance of school meals – name of your school – class name". You can upload your school logo or a picture of your mascot. You can double check to see if your class has been registered or which class has donated the most rice to-date by searching for it in [Groups](#).

How to Win?

Simple. The class with the most rice raised at the end of the school year; June 15 2013 at midnight wins the competition.

What's the prize?

A blog featuring the winning class will be posted on our international website, letting the world know how your class works to stop hunger!

Good Luck!

