



ACTIVITY

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Where Does Food Come From?

Students learn that the foods they eat ultimately depend on agriculture.

What You Need to Know

For most of human history, the production of food necessitated the efforts of nearly every adult in a community to hunt, gather, plant, or harvest. In the United States today, few people are directly involved in the production of the raw ingredients of the food we eat. As a result, many of your students may not realize that food comes from somewhere other than the supermarket, necessitating a number of steps in getting food from where it is raised to their table.

What You Need to Have

- photograph or drawing of a cheeseburger on a bun with toppings such as lettuce, tomato, pickles, mayonnaise, ketchup

What You Do

1. Ask students where their families obtain their food. Do their families grow or raise any of their food or know anyone who does? Have they ever seen food being raised?
2. Ask students to list the parts of a cheeseburger: beef, cheese, bun, etc. Would they believe that everything in the cheeseburger can be traced back to the soil?
3. Begin to create a "Food Tree" by displaying the picture of a cheeseburger. Taking one part of the cheeseburger at a time, students trace the ingredients in each part backwards to its origins—ultimately, the soil.

(For example: CHEESE — MILK — COW — GRASS — SOIL)

Ask students to explain which parts of the cheeseburger go through the most steps to become food, and which go through the least.

4. Have students make their own "Food Trees" using another of their favorite foods.

Cheeseburger

