

# Helpful Websites

Reviewed by students in the Families and Social Policy Class at Auburn University

## [www.activecitizenship.org](http://www.activecitizenship.org)

The website's goal is empowering America's youth. The site offers programs for teachers for "engaging students in solving real life community problems and developing the kind of public spirited character so vital for the survival of our democracy."

The site provides free lessons, as well as, a link for purchasing lessons that involve active learning and critical thinking for students. The lessons are divided into political problem solving, U.S. civic values, dialogue and conflict resolution, current political problems and the challenge of citizenship. The site also has a portion on civic values which discusses why we need to challenge students to apply civic values in solving community problems. There is another section entitled service learning which includes examples of projects. Three important examples of previous projects included:

1. **Oakhurst Incorporation** -- Recommendations of steps to be taken to incorporate Oakhurst as a city, presented to the Chamber of Commerce, along with a brochure for educating citizens about incorporation issues. This project won an award from the American Planning Association.
2. **Alternative Transportation in Yosemite** -- A proposal for a propane bus system, bringing tourists to Yosemite National Park and reducing environmental damage from cars, presented to a regional transportation planning group. Federal legislation may result from this project.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance Book** -- To resolve the problem of elementary students saying the Pledge of Allegiance without knowing the meaning, five girls wrote a coloring book, and, with funds from the Rotary Club, gave them to 275 third graders in their district. They plan to publish the book.

The website provides access to resources and directions for teachers in order to implement the learning curriculum in their classrooms. And finally there is a section for links to on-line resources for anyone to access that might be interested in learning more about civic values and active citizenship.

## [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

Bread.org's mission statement is as follows: Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our nation's decision makers. In holding with their mission, the website is very politically and action oriented. Their main page deals with policy and events involved in those policies. A very educational part of the website is the Learn section. It covers world and U.S. hunger issues, policy information, assistance information and hunger forums to discuss hunger issues. The Get Involved section of the website is also informative. However, this section is geared more towards older students and adults and is action oriented more than education oriented. This website would be most useful to the 4H clubs involved in the War on Hunger in the amount of information on the current issues dealing with hunger and how it is being combated. Bread.org may be seen as too adult in the way information is presented, but is definitely a great resource to be used by the 4H club.

## [www.cyberschoolbus.un.org](http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org)

This site describes what the United Nations does across the world. It allows for easy navigation and the ability to see facts of every, or almost every, country in the world. The site has a link to click on specifically for “World Hunger”.

Under this link, many more links exist. There is a link just of world hunger facts, such as:

**“Not everyone has adequate access to the food they need, and this has led to large-scale hunger and malnutrition in the world.** More than 850 million people today are chronically undernourished and unable to obtain sufficient food to meet even minimum energy needs. Approximately 200 million children under five years of age suffer from acute or chronic symptoms of malnutrition; during seasonal food shortages, and in times of famine and social unrest, this number increases. According to some estimates, malnutrition is an important factor among the nearly 13 million children under five who die every year from preventable diseases and infections, such as measles, diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia, or from some combination of these.”

**“The overwhelming majority of the undernourished are in developing countries, which account for 95% (798 million) of the undernourished;** 34 million people in countries in transition and 10 million in industrialized countries are estimated to be undernourished. At the regional level, Asia and the Pacific account for three-fifths (505 million) of the world’s undernourished; India alone has 214 million undernourished people. Almost one-quarter (198 million) of the undernourished are in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is also the region with the highest proportion of its population undernourished.”

**“Even mild forms of these deficiencies can limit a child’s development and learning capacity early in life,** which can lead to cumulative deficits in school performance, resulting in higher school drop-out rates and a high burden of illiteracy in our future populations. Many of the most severe health consequences of these three leading micronutrient deficiencies could be greatly alleviated by ensuring adequate food supplies and varied diets that provide essential vitamins and minerals.”

The website also has many links to inform students on citizenship including links about: world water day, landmines, tree planting, and human rights day, standing up against poverty, racial and ethnic disparities.

### Curricula, Activities, and other resources

The site provides one example of an activity for young children, middle children, and older children. The site also provides a powerpoint presentation describing why and how children can help fight hunger.

The site has three lesson plans for teachers for three levels of learning: primary, intermediate, and secondary. The primary lesson plans include making a food chain and teaching children that every animal needs food and everything is interconnected. At the primary level children also learn that food is needed to stay active and healthy. At the intermediate level students learn what people are experiencing malnutrition and hunger, the reasons why people are going hungry, and what can be done to stop hunger. At the secondary level students learn what makes food so important, including vitamins it gives us to make our bodies function properly, and why it is important food is kept safe. At this level students learn about food waste, and food production, and why in certain places it is harder to grow

food and keep enough for the population to have. They also can learn about heroes in the fight against hunger. Teachers can find all of these ideas already easily explained and laid out for them on the site.

There are also video games, quizzes, and many other informative links on the page about world hunger, and other worldly concerns as stated above. All the web sites listed are easy to navigate, great for children, and present clear information for adults as well.

## [www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)

### **Important points about hunger/citizenship noted on the site:**

This site is dedicated to many other important causes along with hunger, so there are not very many important points dedicated to hunger on the main part of the site. There is however a place when you go to the "Causes" tab where you can "select your cause". When you choose "hunger" the whole page becomes dedicated to our world's hunger cause, and this is your best bet for finding hunger information. The page gives a few hunger facts, including: "More than 1 in 10 households in the United States experience hunger or the risk of hunger." Also, when you click on the "Boards" tab, you are taken to a page with many message boards to choose from. This is where everyone who visits the site can share their thoughts, so here you can find some different information about hunger. You can also find some interesting information when you click on the "CelebsGoneGood" tab; it shows you things celebrities are doing to help different causes.

### **Curricula, Activities, and Other Resources**

When you go to the "Causes" tab and select "hunger", the page gives you lots of ideas for fun projects you can start in your school or community to fight hunger. One idea at the top of the page was: "Start mobilizing your school for a Thanks/Giving canned food drive, let us know how much you raised and Do Something will give the top school a \$500 grant to fight hunger in your area." There is also a place where people who visit the site can give their own ideas about possible things to try for fighting hunger. There is also links to different projects going on around the United States that you can get involved in, or try for yourself.

## [www.frac.org/html/hunger\\_in\\_the\\_us/hunger](http://www.frac.org/html/hunger_in_the_us/hunger)

### **Important points about hunger/citizenship noted on the site**

The site includes facts from the USDA's study such as 35.1 million people live in households considered to be food insecure and 12.4 million of those are children. It also discusses the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project (CCHIP), which is a national survey that measures hunger among families with children. Its results were released in 1991 and 1995. It gives definitions of high, marginal, low and very low food security and discusses which families are at greatest risk for falling in the low and very low food security categories. There is also a very brief discussion of some of the health and social outcomes that hunger and low-very low food security can cause.

### **Curricula, activities and other resources presented on the site**

There is a link on the page to the government's full report Household Food Security in the United States which is where most of the information on the page originates.

There are also three links to tables and graphs of statistics on hunger, both nationally and broken down by state.

Also, there is a link to several more facts about hunger and the role of food stamps and school lunch programs in solving it.

## **[www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/go](http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/go)**

### **Points about Hunger/Citizenship**

The goal of the Global Education Website is to increase the amount and quality of teaching of global education in Australian primary and secondary schools. The site supports the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) Global Education Program, which aims to raise awareness and understanding among Australian school students of international issues, development and poverty. The website has a category entitled "Global issues" which list 23 topics and frequently used terms that appear regularly in global hunger discourse; some of the topics and terms include: microfinance, rice, HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, urbanization, gender, and globalization. The 23 topics shown on the website illustrate that global hunger and poverty is very interdisciplinary. There are profiles of each continent; the countries that are severely affected by poverty and hunger are given. Profiles and maps of Africa, Asia, and the Pacific islands are provided.

### **Curricula activities and Other resources.**

On every page of each of the 23 individual global issues, there are facts about the topic, background information, case studies, and teaching activities. For example, on the urbanization topic page some facts regarding this topic are: "It is estimated that more than 750 million people worldwide live in urban areas without adequate shelter and basic services" and "37% of the city population in the developing world is employed within the 'informal' sector - paying no taxes and receiving no security or benefits." Background information about urbanization include environmental, economic, and infrastructure issues. Teaching activities include exercises centered on research and discussion. Every teaching activity for each global issue lists the appropriate grade level for each activity. Links to many credible NGO's and publications are given.

## **[www.knowhunger.org](http://www.knowhunger.org)**

The website states, knowhunger.org is a "ready-to-use, 6-unit social studies curriculum geared toward high school youth, and designed to enable educators to easily integrate social content materials into their classes." In addition to chronological lesson plans, it gives a lesson plan for educators that guide them through each unit of the curriculum. The website also offers a section for students that include a quiz that tests their "Hunger IQ", a key terms chart, a Q&A list, and bulletin board for students' feedback.

**Important points about hunger noted on the site:**

- Hunger is growing faster in rural America and the suburbs than in the city
- Children and the elderly make up the largest portion of hunger
- Hunger is often a “hidden” problem in the US because of the abundance of food
- Families are a growing percent of those who are in need of emergency or non-emergency food assistance
- Having a full time job does not mean you will be lifted out of poverty and not be hungry
- Females make up the majority of people who receive emergency food assistance
- Nutrition has a major effect on the cognitive development of school-age children
- Hunger is a political problem with a political solution

**Curricula, Activities, and other resources printed on the site:**

**Unit One:** *Hunger in the World: History of Hunger and its face today-* This

unit discusses the causes of hunger and how they have changed over time, their similarities and differences, and the differences between hunger in developing developing countries versus hunger in industrialized countries.

**Unit Two:** *Hunger in America: The Who, What, and Where of Domestic Hunger*

This goals of this unit are for students to understand the terms “hunger” and food insecurity” and how they are interrelated. The website also goes over the extent of food insecurity in the United States.

**Unit Three:** *What Hunger Does to its Victims and to the Nation-* Analyzes

and interprets the latest scientific evidence of what hunger does to the minds and bodies of children. It also covers the public policy implications of the scientific evidence.

**Unit Four:** *Hunger in America: Why People Go Hungry:* In this unit, students

become familiar with the periodic rise and decline of domestic hunger since the 1930s and understand policy events that impact the degree of hunger. Through this, students are able to see the link between policies and the economic circumstances of the poor.

**Unit Five:** *Solutions to Hunger in America: The Rules of Charity and Justice*

This teaches children the role and dimensions of emergency food programs and defines the benefits and limits of these programs.

**Unit Six:** *What Can I Do about Hunger?-The Power of the Kids:* This unit is all

about informing the children of ways in which they can help. It challenges them to examine the power within them.

**Activities that are mentioned as a companion to the curriculum:**

- a class visit to the local food bank
- use of a journal to record efforts by children to fight hunger and their observations
- worksheets
- group project in which students design and implement a community service project
- presentation of group projects
- assessment of the learning process through reading students journal entries to the class
- a class party to celebrate their success

## **[www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org)**

Oxfam America is an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice. Together with individuals and local groups in more than 120 countries, Oxfam saves lives, helps people overcome poverty, and fights for social justice. Oxfam America is an affiliate of Oxfam International.

Oxfam America works on the scene, helping people gain the hope, skills, and direction to create a new future. Oxfam America is also active in the global arena, addressing social injustice through advocacy, public education, and emergency assistance programs. While Oxfam specializes in helping communities realize individualized solutions to their problems, the real work takes on universal themes. From community to community and region to region, people are facing like challenges—and pursuing like solutions to their needs.

When disaster strikes, Oxfam's worldwide network of partners is already on the scene, providing emergency assistance. Once the immediate danger has passed, Oxfam seeks out the root causes of crises and works to bring about lasting change.

Oxfam America believes that if the country takes one day to skip a meal, and donates the money that would have been spent on that meal, then it would help aid in the war on hunger. Oxfam America believes this technique will work as well. So on the Thursday before Thanksgiving, November 15<sup>th</sup>, or on another day of your choice, skip a meal to remember the more than 854 million people who are hungry.

## **[www.secondharvest.org](http://www.secondharvest.org)**

### Important Points

As soon as the page is opened, there are three pictures up with opportunities for citizens of Alabama or whoever, to become easily active in helping the people who are being affected by hunger. Such examples of this are sending holiday cards about ending hunger, giving free thanksgiving meals to the people in your immediate community, or ways that you can volunteer. This website is also very clear on who they help, who they partner with, and how you can help. There is a quick, easily accessible link about ways that you can learn more about hunger. Once you click onto this you can access whatever you want, from hunger statistics to public policy to where hunger exists within your community. Such points are stated as: "In 2005, 35.1 million Americans lived in food insecure (low food security and very low food security) households, 22.7 million adults and 12.4 million children," issue briefs, how hunger affects the children physically, and much more.

### Curricula and Activities

There is curriculum throughout the website including the section titled "Learn More About Hunger" which offers a very thorough education on hunger and is also very up to date, including a section entitled "News Room," which gives numerous articles even as recently as the last week about issues concerning hunger and where it is going on, as well as easy access to understanding more about your specific area through simply entering your zip code.

Various activities are offered to the participate on the first page and also more in depth by clicking on the "Volunteer" section, "Advocacy" section, by entering your email so that you can stay up to date with the current events, the "Donate" section, and by easily locating your local food bank. Such activities could include something as simple as sending money, serving at the food bank, establishing relationships with the people affected through projects such as bringing a Thanksgiving meal to them,

serving in the Katrina aftermath, or by showing you how to contact your state officials about legislation concerning hunger in America.

Other resources that are presented on the site are also offered. Some of these include the organizations that they work alongside such as Kroger while others include your local emergency food assistance program or other websites that are referenced throughout the entire website as they speak of this fatal issue within our country and the rest of the world. They also have a link titled "Who Helps Us" which offers all of the people that they work alongside with from their online partners, to food partners, to advocacy and outreach partners, and many others in between. Not only are each of these people and organizations noted but also the role that they specifically play and how one can become involved with them.

### **[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)**

This site's goal is to educate and create awareness about hunger. It also educates about the World Food Programme (WFP) and what steps they have taken to fight hunger. This site addresses five main areas: Global Hunger, Emergency Response, Feeding Children, Escaping Poverty, and Fighting HIV/AIDS. This is a great site to gain information about world hunger. There is a hunger glossary to educate the viewer. One of the most important points that the WFP website addresses is the significance between quality and quantity. Malnutrition is the result of inadequate dietary intake, infection, or both. The website provides a wealth of information about marasmus, kwashiorkor, and iron deficiency. School feeding which encourages children to attend school, HIV/AIDS because food is crucial in this fight, food for work, and food for women due to the belief that women are the first and fastest solution to reducing hunger and poverty are the groups focused on by the World Food Programme.

The WFP is known for being the first to respond in times of hunger crisis. They deliver food directly into disaster zones by airdropping. Ships and trucks are used to transport food to distribution sites. On this website you will find a list of countries that the WFP provides assistance. Also, this website provides information on how the public can help by giving a variety of choices to donate money such as Africa Floods, Child Hunger, Peru, Asian Floods, and Southern Africa.

There are activities and resources that can be found on the World Food Programme website. FreeRice is an online vocabulary game in which for every correct answer the site donates 10 grains of rice to its official humanitarian partner, WFP. Over one billion grains of rice have been donated to WFP through an innovative, dynamic online campaign – enough to feed more than 50,000 people for one day. The Food Force Game is an educational video game in which the participant tries to save and rebuild the island of Sheylan by distributing food to the hungry. There are also Interactive Hunger Maps which show areas of the world that are undernourished. When exploring the WFP website, one can find numerous news articles about world hunger which provide professional sources. This website provides extremely helpful information on the war on hunger.

## **[www.worldhunger.org](http://www.worldhunger.org)**

Worldhunger.org is a very user friendly site with many news updates and easy to navigate information. It has departments such as Asia, Africa, Global, and United States that break down hunger issues and efforts in targeted areas. It also has book reviews of some popular books on hunger and poverty for those interested in doing some extra reading. There is a section labeled "You can...Learn more about hunger" where readers are linked to more sites that provide hunger information, take hunger quizzes, and learn about volunteer opportunities.

It provides a map of the world broken down according to their access to nourishment that gives a very clear picture of problem areas. There are links to news stories about specific areas and countries and what is going on there in terms of hunger and poverty. The news stories are up to date and very friendly in terms of reading material.

It provides ways for users to contact organizations that benefit the hungry and poverty-stricken and encourages readers to try and influence public policy with the knowledge they gain about hunger.

There are not a lot of activities listed that would be helpful for kids or group leaders, but the information is very valuable and pertinent. It is an easy website to follow, and it provides a vast amount of current information about hunger efforts at home and worldwide.