

Follow-up activities

a) The Global Picture: comparing the Gobi Desert Region with Other Global Regions

Your task is to compare vulnerable people in the Gobi Desert with other food insecure people around the world. You could make notes that compare the causes of food insecurity (physical & human), the effects and the different management solutions. If your examination asks you to have an understanding of global food insecurity, it might be a good idea to do these notes on a world map to get a sense of the distribution and global picture. There are many areas of food insecurity, but researching the following areas and the key ideas listed next to each would be a good start:

- (i) Sahel and/or the Eastern Horn of Africa – conflict, issues of governance, food aid, land grabbing.
- (ii) Southern Africa – traditionally the ‘bread basket’ of Africa, landform, cash crops, some issues of internal governance (e.g. Zimbabwe).
- (iii) South America & Caribbean – cash crops, economic growth vs environmental protection, GM crops, hazards (e.g. Haiti – multiple hazards).
- (iv) Bangladesh – hazards, climate change.

You could also annotate on a world map areas of contrast i.e. ‘obesity’ – namely parts of Europe, the USA and increasingly China.

b) Investigating global power structures which affect food security issues: who are the key “players”?

POWER –which organisations and groups are involved in ensuring food security? The ideas on the Gobi clearly show the importance in the role of the government, especially in China. However, there are many others – often globally operating – organisations that play an incredibly important role in improving food security. You

should complete some research into the following websites. You might want to focus your notes on:

- i) What is this player's role in improving (or otherwise) food security?
- ii) What is this player's aims/goals (why are they helping?) – complete some research into the background of the organisation.
- iii) To what extent do they contribute to improving food security? (difficult to tell from web research – but try and infer the likely contribution they seem to have).

Here are some weblinks to get you started:

FAO ('Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations') – The FAO have done an incredible amount of work to support countries improve their food security. They act as a neutral meeting point to help countries negotiate food & trade agreements. They support countries improve and modernise agriculture systems to improve food & nutrition security. There are lots of up-to date statistics on the following website:

<http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=MNG&subject=3>

World Bank – is an international financial institution that provides loans to developing countries for large infrastructure programmes. It is a 'Bretton Woods' organisation (find out what this means!). Complete some research on the link below for current World Bank funded projects. Projects are not necessarily food security related, but are aimed to improve wider development & infrastructure of a country. At the time of writing the example of the website was 'solar lighting' for Mongolian herders.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mongolia>

NGOs e.g. **World Vision** – NGOs typically rely on public fund raising e.g. schemes such 'sponsor a child'. Their food security solutions tend to focus on both wider development improvements such as education and health and often more 'bottom-up' and 'low tech' solutions. Click on the 'publications' section on the weblink below to see the latest projects World Vision are working on Mongolia.

<http://mongolia.wvasiapacific.org/>

c) Wider reading on global food security

Look out for articles in the news that link to food insecurity; climate change, population growth, globalisation of food production, hazard events and conflict are all interlinked. Try and reflect on how the story of the Gobi Desert and growing food insecurity fits into this. The following link is a good article and references Troy:

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/03/opinion/sunday/friedman-the-scary-hidden-stressor.html?_r=1&_ga=2.111111111.111111111.111111111-111111111-111111111