

Food Security, Overeating, and Famine

Social Studies · Practice Test · 21 Questions

1. What technological advancements have led to a wide variety of food and regular supply in developed countries?

- A) Refrigeration, canning, freeze-drying, worldwide trade, and fast transport
- B) Increased agricultural subsidies and government intervention
- C) Development of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and vertical farming
- D) Greater consumer demand for exotic foods and luxury ingredients

2. What are some health risks associated with eating too much food and not exercising?

- A) Tooth decay, heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, appendicitis, and certain cancers
- B) Improved immune system, increased energy levels, and better sleep
- C) Enhanced cognitive function, reduced stress, and greater creativity
- D) Stronger bones, healthier skin, and improved eyesight

3. According to the text, approximately how many overweight people are there in the world today?

- A) One billion
- B) 500 million
- C) 200 million
- D) 100 million

4. What is a famine?

- A) A very serious shortage of food
- B) A surplus of food in a region
- C) A temporary lack of access to healthy food options
- D) A widespread increase in food prices

5. What can happen to a person's body if they haven't eaten properly for a long time?

- A) They become weaker, lose weight, and may die of starvation or disease
- B) They develop stronger muscles and a more robust immune system
- C) Their body adapts by requiring less food and increasing metabolism
- D) They experience increased energy and improved mental clarity

6. How many children under the age of five die every minute from diseases of hunger?

- A) About 24
- B) About 50
- C) About 10
- D) About 100

7. What does it mean for people to be malnourished?

- A) They do not eat enough of the right kinds of food
- B) They eat too much of the wrong kinds of food
- C) They have a perfectly balanced diet but lack exercise
- D) They have a temporary lack of appetite

8. What is a common myth about famines?

- A) That they are caused by a lack of food in the world or too many people
- B) That they are always caused by natural disasters
- C) That they only affect developing countries
- D) That they can be solved by simply producing more food

9. What is the actual problem that leads to people not getting the food they need, according to the text?

- A) The food does not always get to the people who need it, and a lot of food is wasted
- B) There is a global shortage of essential food crops
- C) People in developing countries lack the knowledge to grow food
- D) Food production technology is not advanced enough

10. Up to what fraction of food in North American supermarkets is thrown away?

- A) A quarter
- B) Half
- C) One-tenth
- D) One-fifth

11. If crops fail in poor countries, what is a common reason they cannot buy food from elsewhere?

- A) Their governments usually do not have the money
- B) They lack the necessary transportation infrastructure
- C) International trade agreements are unfavorable
- D) There is a global shortage of exportable food

12. Which of the following is NOT listed as a natural cause of famine?

- A) Wars and sieges
- B) Long periods of dry weather (drought)
- C) Floods
- D) Plagues of insect pests

13. What is a drought?

- A) A period of abnormally dry weather
- B) Excessive rainfall that causes rivers to overflow
- C) Sudden shifts in temperature that damage crops
- D) A prolonged period of unusually cold weather

14. How do floods destroy crops?

- A) By covering them with water or burying them in mud
- B) By causing extreme heat that withers the plants
- C) By introducing new types of plant diseases
- D) By attracting large numbers of crop-eating insects

15. In which country did severe floods in 2013 force about 230,000 people from their homes?

- A) Niger
- B) Bangladesh
- C) China
- D) Philippines

16. What is a human cause of famine where farmland turns into desert?

- A) Desertification
- B) Deforestation
- C) Overgrazing
- D) All of the above

17. How can war cause famine?

- A) By turning farms into battlegrounds, destroying crops, and disrupting food transport
- B) By increasing the demand for food in conflict zones
- C) By forcing people to migrate to areas with better food supplies
- D) By encouraging the development of new agricultural techniques

18. What is desertification?

- A) The process of turning land into desert where nothing will grow
- B) The expansion of fertile land due to increased rainfall
- C) The successful cultivation of crops in arid regions
- D) The management of deserts for tourism purposes

19. What happens to the soil when trees are cut down for firewood or timber?

- A) It is no longer held together by roots and the land turns to desert
- B) It becomes more fertile and suitable for farming
- C) It develops a thicker layer of topsoil
- D) It becomes more resistant to erosion

20. What are cash crops?

- A) Crops grown for sale to richer countries, like coffee and tea
- B) Crops grown for immediate local consumption
- C) Crops that are easily grown with minimal resources
- D) Crops that are resistant to pests and diseases

21. What is a consequence of using large areas of the best land to grow cash crops instead of food for local people?

- A) It can lead to food shortages for the local population
- B) It increases the overall food security of the region
- C) It diversifies the local diet
- D) It reduces the reliance on imported food