



Lesson #2: Mapping Local Food Access

Lesson Focus & Goals

- Students will use mapping tools to explore local food availability and access barriers.

Materials Needed

- Computers/tablets with Google Maps OR printed maps of school/home area
- Access to public transportation maps/routes (printed or online)
- Printed infographic(s) on food deserts/food security
- Chart paper and markers

Student Learning Objectives

- Analyze accessibility of grocery stores in their community.
- Interpret food security data through infographics.

Lesson Components

Hook (5 min)

- Ask: *Where do you or your family shop for food? How easy is it to get there? How often does your family go to a grocery store? What are some challenges of grocery shopping without a car?*
- Show students [this video on food deserts](#).
 - Student discussion:
 - Describe the challenges some of the families feature in this video face.
 - Explain the relationship between food deserts and the quality of food options available to residents?

Map Activity (20 Minutes)

- [Open Google Maps](#). Enter your school address or home address.
- Then search for “grocery stores” in the search bar. Select the closest grocery store to your address.
 - How long would it take you to get there in a car?
 - Biking? Public Transportation? Walking?

- If that grocery store were to shut down, select the next closest grocery store to your address.
 - How long would it take you to get there in a car?
 - Biking? Public Transportation? Walking?
- Let's visit another part of Colorado. Select one of the following as your next address:
 - Colorado State Capital (200 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80203)
 - Mack Mesa Airport (1048 R Rd, Mack, CO 81525)
 - Lamar Community Building (610 S 6th St, Lamar, CO 81052)
 - Foothills Activity Center (241 E Foothills Pkwy, Fort Collins, CO 80525)
 - Select the closest grocery store to your address.
 - How long would it take you to get there in a car?
 - Biking? Public Transportation? Walking?
- Discussion:
 - What did you notice during this activity?
 - What are some wonderings you have related to grocery store access?
 - Examine [this map of the US showing counties](#) and their percentage of food insecure families.
 - Find your local county and look at the data. Does anything surprise you?
(*Explain that SNAP is a government assistance program for low-income families.*)

Infographic Activity (20 Minutes)

- In this next activity, students will work in groups to analyze the information communicated through different infographics.
- Group students into groups of 2-4 students. Give each group a different infographic. Each group will identify the following on a poster:
 - What is the main idea being communicated?
 - Describe the type of data being shown.
 - Identify a statistic that surprised you and discuss why it's surprising.
 - List out one cause and effect relationship displayed.
- Gallery Walk:
 - Hang the student poster up around the classroom with their infographic next to the poster.
 - Have students walk around the room to read posters for infographics that were different from the one they analyzed.
 - Discussion:
 - Identify one new thing you learned from another group's poster?
 - Describe a statistic you read that you want to know more about.