APES Famine Activity

**Purpose:** This activity is designed to demonstrate the inequitable distribution of the world’s resources.

1. World population and wealth are unequally distributed among different countries sin the world. As a class, we will represent the percentage of earth’s population in each of 8 regions. For example, if you have 20 people, you will need five to represent China, four to represent Asia, three to represent India, two each to represent Europe, South America, and Africa, and one each to represent North America and the former Soviet Union. Calculate the number of people we should have in each region based on the class size :
   1. Number of people present in class\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Number of people assigned to….
      1. China -25% \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      2. Other Asian Countries -20% \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      3. India- 15% \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      4. Latin America- 10%\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      5. Africa – 10% \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      6. Former soviet union- 5% \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      7. North America – 5% \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      8. Europe- 10% \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Giving:** Of all the money donated in the world, 95% goes to North America, 3% goes to Europe, and 2% goes to the rest of the world. Imagine that $1.83 is all of the money that is donated in the world (in reality, it is all the change Ms. McDaniel has in her wallet). Base don this information, calculate the number of money that should be allocated to each group:
   1. Total Money: $1.83
   2. North America (95%): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. Europe (3%):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   4. Rest of the world (2%): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Food:** Of all the food produced in the world, 5/8 goes to North America. 1/4 goes to Europe, and 1/8 is shared by the rest of the world. Using this information, calculate the amount of beans (representing food) each region should receive:
   1. Total weight of beans: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. North America (5/8):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. Europe (1/4): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   4. Rest of the world (1/8):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Food Choice:** Many people in the world eat the same food every day. For example, in Puerto Rico, usually people eat rice and beans for many meals. The Oreos represent food choice: the more Oreos you have, the greater the ability you have to eat a diversified diet.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. After this simulation do you feel lucky to live in North America? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think the distribution is so unequal? Explain at least three causes.
3. It can’t be denied that over consumption in the developed world is an issue. What can we do about it?
4. How could we make the distribution of wealth and food more equal?