

## What do they eat in...? Teacher notes

This activity is designed for years 5 and 6, but might suit higher years as well. It uses the idea of estimating percentages to make comparisons, so some awareness of percentage is a pre-requisite.

### What do they eat in China... Italy... Ecuador?

The activity begins with three photos taken by Peter Menzel. Each is of a typical family from that country with their food for one week. China and Italy were chosen because their cuisines are common take-away foods in Australia, and there are many families from those countries in Australia. There are no take-away foods in these pictures.

Ecuador was chosen because it provides contrast, both in family size (large) and in types of foods (mostly home-grown).

Display each of the three photos in turn. You could use the projector or have paper copies for groups of students. The countries are China, Italy and Ecuador.

Have a world map available to locate the three countries.

Lead a discussion on what the students notice. Comparisons with their own lives will likely emerge.

You can download the *What do they eat in...? Student worksheet*.

### What foods are most common in different countries? How are they the same, and how are they different?

Ask students to identify the types of food that they see. The foods can be broadly grouped into grains; dairy; meat, fish and eggs; fruit and vegetables; fast food; drinks.

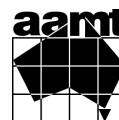
Students can rank the food types first and then estimate a percentage for each of the categories. They can then compare to the food of their own families.

### How much money do people have to spend on food in different countries?

This is extended with data on a spreadsheet which has a graph showing family size, and total amount spent.

It also shows how much is actually spent on each food type, using US\$ comparisons. (This might need to be explained, and could lead to a discussion of currencies.)

Students can use the *Food spreadsheet* to find the amount of money (and the relative percentages) spent on different food groups for these three countries plus Australia.



## Extension

World Vision Australia produce a number of case-study reports or explanation statements designed for use in schools. Categories are Global issues (6 each with many subcategories), two-page country profiles, games and activities.

Oxfam was known in Australia as 'Community Aid Abroad'. They work in many countries. Select 'Development' and choose a country.

The class may wish to explore further.

There are more families and more information in the book *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio ([www.menzelphoto.com/books/hp.php](http://www.menzelphoto.com/books/hp.php)).

World Vision ([www.worldvision.com.au/learn/schoolResources](http://www.worldvision.com.au/learn/schoolResources)) and Oxfam ([www.oxfam.org/en/policy](http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy)) produce school resources that may be of interest.