



CLASS 4

Making Choices

MATERIALS NEEDED

Student Activity Handout: Making Choices

CLASSROOM NARRATIVE

ACTIVITY: Students work with two classmates to write a role play, a story, or advertisement that teaches people about some of the choices they have before them as consumers and how their food choices make a difference. Groups share their play, story, or advertisement with the class.

NAME:

DATE:

Making Choices

Work with two classmates to write a play, a story, or an advertisement that teaches people about some of the choices we have as consumers. Educate people about how their food choices make a difference.

Topics to Consider -

We can choose to buy food based on:

- where the raw materials are from that were used to make the product;
- where it was produced and processed;
- how workers, farmers or other producers are treated;
- what impact the product has on the environment;
- whether it has any connection to a cooperative or how the business is structured;
- what quality ingredients were used;
- whether it has preservatives;
- whether its organic;
- how much packaging it has;
- and the nutritional value.

Perform the play, story, or advertisement for your classmates.

You'll be graded using the following point system:

4 POINTS for a play, story, or advertisement that clearly presents some of the choices we have as consumers in our society, how we can approach those choices and the way those choices impact other people and the environment around the world

3 POINTS for creativity

3 POINTS for an effective group process that values and encourages each person's contribution

TOTAL: 10 POINTS

FOLLOW-UP PROJECTS

Invite people to come into your classroom to talk about their work. Have them talk about how hard they work, what they do, and how much they are paid. Ask students to keep a chart, ranking each type of job by how much education is needed to get that job, how much physical work is required, work hours per week, how much they get paid, and whether the work is done through a cooperative. Ask them to predict how other types of jobs will rank in relation to this job and then have them test their predictions. Ask them to describe how society determines the value of various kinds of work. (Include small-scale and large-scale farmers, worker owned cooperatives, homemakers, family day-care providers, construction workers, teachers, ministers, computer programmers, scientists, social workers, etc.)

Invite business owners to come into your classroom to talk about their businesses. Have students find out who owns the business, who benefits from the business, who makes decisions, and how the community benefits from their work.

Find out about the Mondragon cooperatives. Find out how they got started and what impact they have on their local economy in Spain.

Learn about cooperatives in the U.S. Find out how they got started and what value they bring to us as shoppers and to the broader community.

Child Care cooperatives: www.preschools.coop

Credit unions: www.creditunion.coop

Electric cooperatives: www.nreca.coop

Food cooperatives: www.cooperativegrocer.coop

Housing cooperatives: www.nahc.oop

Producer cooperatives: www.ncfc.org

Other cooperatives: www.ncba.org