INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM



GROWING

Farmers use big machines to plant huge fields. Each field usually grows only one kind of crop, a **monocrop**.

→



HARVESTING

Farm workers use big machines to pick the ripe crops all at once.

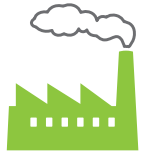
→



TRANSPORTING

Workers move the food by truck, train, ship, or plane. Food often travels a very long way.

→



PROCESSING

Workers in factories use machines to chop, dry, cook, can, or freeze food. **Processed** food often looks and tastes very different from the way it started.

→



PACKAGING

Workers put food into cans, bags, or boxes. **Packaging** keeps the food safe and helps sell it.

→



WHOLESALING

Wholesalers are big companies that buy huge amounts of food and send it to stores.

→



RETAILING

Retailers like supermarkets sell the food to shoppers.

→



EATING

People buy, cook, and eat the food.

→



DISPOSING

Leftover food and packages get thrown away. Some can be recycled or composted, but a lot ends up in **landfills**.

×

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LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM



GROWING

Farmers plant many different kinds of crops on small farms.



HARVESTING

Farm workers pick the ripe crops by hand.



PACKING

Farm workers put the food into boxes or bags that can be used again.



TRANSPORTING

Farmers drive the food a short way to a market, restaurant, or nearby store.



EATING

People buy, cook, and eat the food.



DISPOSING

Food scraps become **compost** that goes back into the soil. Less packaging means less trash.



RETAILING

Farmers or store owners sell the food to shoppers.

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ACTIVITY: THE STORY OF FOOD

Food Story Clues

Every food has a story. Become a food detective: read your label and answer the clues.

PARTNERS _____ DATE _____

MY FOOD _____

1 Whole or processed?

Circle one: WHOLE FOOD | PROCESSED FOOD | NOT SURE

Why?

_____

_____

2 How many ingredients are on the label? _____

3 What are the top 3 ingredients?

a. _____ **b.** _____ **c.** _____

4 Where might this food come from?

Look on the label for clues like "Product of…" or "Distributed by…". If you can't find it, make your best guess and add a ?

_____

_____

5 Who do you imagine was part of this food's story?

Think about farmers, drivers, packers, store workers: anyone who helped get this food to you.

_____

_____

6 Most surprising clue

Circle ONE clue above that surprised you most. Then write why it surprised you.

_____

_____