INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM



GROWING

Farmers use heavy machinery to prepare soil and plant huge fields of a single crop, a **monocrop**.



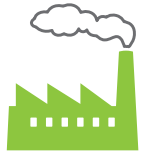
HARVESTING

Farm workers gather the ripe crop from the field using large machinery, taking in great quantities at once.



TRANSPORTING

Transportation workers move food by air, truck, train, ship, or barge. Food may travel very long distances between stops.



PROCESSING

Food processors use factory equipment to chop, grind, dry, boil, can, or freeze food. **Processed** food is often changed a lot from how it started.



PACKAGING

Workers use machinery to put food into cans, bags, boxes, or other containers. **Packaging** protects the food and helps sell it.



WHOLESALING

Wholesalers buy food in large quantities from producers and distribute it to stores.



RETAILING

Retailers (supermarkets, grocery stores, and other shops) sell food to customers.



EATING

People buy, prepare, and eat the food.



DISPOSING

People throw out leftover food and packaging. Some is recycled or composted, but much of it ends up in **landfills**.

Nourish Curriculum © WorldLink (Lesson 1: The Story of Food)
Developed in partnership with the Center for Ecoliteracy

nourish

LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM



GROWING

Farmers prepare soil, plant, and tend a variety of crops on small farms.



HARVESTING

Farm workers gather the ripe crops from the field, often by hand.



PACKING

Farm workers place the food into reusable boxes or bags for transport.



TRANSPORTING

Farmers move the food by truck or van to a farmers market, restaurant, or local store, usually a short distance.



EATING

People buy, prepare, and eat the food.



DISPOSING

Communities collect kitchen scraps to **compost** and return to farm soil. Minimal packaging means less waste in landfills.



RETAILING

Farmers, restaurant owners, or local store owners sell the food to customers.

Nourish Curriculum © WorldLink (Lesson 1: The Story of Food)
Developed in partnership with the Center for Ecoliteracy

nourish

ACTIVITY: THE STORY OF FOOD

Food Story Clues

Every food has a story. Use the clues on the label to investigate where your food came from and what it took to get to you.

PARTNERS _____ DATE _____

MY FOOD _____

1 What kind of food is it?

Circle the closest match.

Circle one: WHOLE FOOD | MINIMALLY PROCESSED | HEAVILY PROCESSED

Your evidence:

_____

_____

2 Ingredients

How many ingredients are listed? _____

List the top 5 (in the order they appear):

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

3 Where might this food have come from?

Look for clues like "Product of…" or "Distributed by…". If you can't find them, make a reasonable inference (mark with a ?).

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

Farmers, drivers, packers, store workers, food scientists, marketers: anyone who helped get this food to you.

5 Industrial or local food system?

Circle one: MOSTLY INDUSTRIAL | MIXED | MOSTLY LOCAL

Your reasoning:

6 Most surprising clue

Circle ONE clue above that surprised you most. Then write WHY it surprised you, and what new question it raises.