

Global Learning Unit

AUTHOR:	ACRACCS -CISV
COUNTRY:	Italy
TITLE:	Meat consumption: pros and cons
STUDENTS' AGE:	14 -18 years
SUBJECTS:	The risks of an excessive consumption of meat
DURATION:	2

Competences:

- Communication in the mother tongue
- Mathematical skills and basic competences in science and technology
- Learning to learn
- Social and civic skills
- Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship
- Cultural awareness and expression

Objectives:

- Understanding how the increase in meat consumption, at first glance positive, is also the cause of multiple ecological, economic and social problems and has thus become unsustainable for the planet.
- Looking at the different aspects of this complex problem.
- Using this information to modify certain consumption patterns.

Activities:

1. Meat consumption grew globally although unevenly

Find data on how meat consumption grew in your country after the war, by collecting statistical data and narrative texts. Conduct a small survey on your own family's weekly meat consumption.

Look for data on other countries, both wealthy and poor, in order to compare datasets.

2. Nutritional properties of meat, but also diseases linked to its excessive consumption

Learn about the role of protein in human nutrition. Consider the positive impact of protein consumption on the average population, but also the diseases related to diets that are too high in protein and fats. Find data on mortality and the social cost of these diseases.



3. Ecological burden of meat production

Find out how the growth in meat consumption is ecologically unsustainable, for example:

- How many plant-derived calories are necessary to produce one animal-derived calorie.
- How much deforestation is caused in order to create pastures and at what price for the ecosystem.
- The pollution caused by animal excrement and slaughterhouse waste.
- How many genetically modified products are used in rearing livestock.

4. The social burden of meat production

Analyse how the large-scale rearing of livestock often uses cereals that could otherwise be used for human consumption, thus resulting in an increase in their price on international markets, to the detriment of those who cannot afford to buy meat.

5. Animals or robots?

See how large-scale livestock rearing can cause animals to suffer and require vaccines and medicines. Many animals are unable to survive and reproduce without human intervention.

6. Rules for consuming properly

Collectively create a manual with a list of rules on how to consume meat the right way, to be proposed to the participants' families and to the managers of the school canteen.

Teaching tools:

- Map of global meat consumption on Worldmapper (<http://www.sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/worldmapper/index.html>)
- <http://faostat.fao.org/site/573/DesktopDefault.aspx?#ancor>
- <http://www.deagostinigeografia.it/wing/confmondo/confronti.jsp?t=confmondo&goal=100184&title=Bovini§ion=3&year=2015&iso=CAN&lang=it>

