

CAUSES OF THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM

Source: Adapted from C.G. Knight and R.P Wilcox, Triumph of Triage? The World Food Problem in Geographical Perspective, resource paper no. 75-3 (Washington, D.C.: Association of American Geographers, 1976), p.4. Note: although this information is from 1976, if you consult more recent materials, you'll find the list has not changed.

(This information can be used when working with the WEB CHART - Option #2.)

World Wide Problems

1. Natural catastrophes—drought, heavy rain and flooding, crop failures.
2. Environmental degradation—soil erosion and inadequate water resources.
3. Food supply-and-demand imbalances.
4. Inadequate food reserves.
5. Warfare and civil disturbances.
6. Migration—refugees.
7. Culturally-based food prejudices.
8. Declining ecological conditions in agricultural regions.

Problems of the Developing World

1. Underdevelopment.
2. Excessive population growth.
3. Lack of economic incentives—farmers using inappropriate methods and laboring on land they may lose or can never hope to own.
4. Parents lacking knowledge of basic nutrition for their children.
5. Insufficient government attention to the rural sector.

Problems of the Industrialized World

1. Excessive use of natural resources.
2. Pollution.
3. Inefficient, animal-protein diets.
4. Inadequate research in science and technology.
5. Excessive government bureaucracy.
6. Loss of farmland to competing uses.

Problems Linking Industrial and Developing Worlds

1. Unequal access to resources.
2. Inadequate transfer of research and technology.
3. Lack of development planning.
4. Insufficient food aid.
5. Politics of food aid and nutrition education.
7. Inappropriate technological research.
8. Inappropriate role of multinational corporations.
9. Insufficient emphasis on agricultural development for self-sufficiency.