Hungry for words... Logistics

A word puzzle and comprehension lesson on the challenges of delivering Food Aid
Age Range: Grades 4-6, Ages 10 -12
Subject: Language Arts
Created by WFP Youth Outreach Team

Overview

Comprehension, Vocabulary

Students will practice addition and subtraction of decimals while considering the small domestic budgets of people in developing countries.

Aims & Objectives

• To introduce students to the work of WFP Logistics Division
• To raise awareness of the difficulties of delivering assistance in uncertain conditions
• To enhance students’ vocabulary and comprehension skills

Preparation

• Make copies of the “Hungry for Words... Logistics” activity sheet

Instructions

1. Have students watch the video: “So you want to be an Aid Worker?”
2. Discuss and list some of the difficulties identified in the video
3. Read the comprehension text with the class
4. Identify new vocabulary and discuss possible meanings
5. Ensure that students answer the comprehension questions in complete sentences
6. Once they have completed the work sheet, students should discuss what they have learned.
7. As an extension activity, ask students to choose the aspect of Logistics and Aid Work which interests them the most and create an illustrated description.
Read the following passage carefully, then complete the wordsearch and answer the questions on the following page in complete sentences.

WFP’s logistics team is responsible for getting food to the people who need it most. They have to negotiate through some of the toughest terrain on the planet and will stop at nothing to get food to the world’s hungriest.

The majority of the humanitarian aid transported by WFP Logistics moves by sea. A fleet of 30 ships carry critical foodstuffs for distribution in more than 80 countries worldwide.

Trucks are the workhorses of the logistics operation and WFP has more than 5000 of them navigating through rough and sometimes dangerous terrain. Because of the tricky terrain, logistics experts are often called on to repair roads and bridges, and in some cases construct new ones. And, when roads are too rough or simply non-existent, WFP employs some rather unconventional means of transportation. Animals, such as elephants, yaks, camels, and donkeys provide the final and critical last leg of the delivery journey.

When emergencies are sudden, roads unusable, or ground conditions dangerous WFP Logistics turns to UNHAS, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, to get food into the skies and to the places that need it most. A fleet of helicopters and planes are responsible for quickly moving food to places where ground transportation is too difficult, or would take too long.

WFP Logistics is a critical part of feeding the world’s hungry. And, no matter what the situation, they are ready and able to quickly get food where it is needed.

Name: _______________________________

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Activity Sheet
Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Apart from delivering food, what are logistics experts often called on to do?

   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

2. What means of transportation are used to deliver food when terrain is too difficult or trucks would take too long?

   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

3. By what means of transportation is most of WFP’s food transported?

   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

4. What are the workhorses of WFP’s logistics operations, and how many of them are there?

   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

5. When all else fails, what unconventional means of transportation does WFP use?

   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

6. List at least 4 new vocabulary words and write their definitions.

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