



# MAIN FEATURE: World Hunger

(pp. 6-9)

► **NCSS STANDARD**  
Production, distribution, and consumption

Worldwide, the number of people who are suffering from hunger has been on the rise. Wars, droughts, and HIV/AIDS are only some of the reasons for this serious problem. This article covers the plight of world hunger.

## ■ World Hunger Basics

Some statistics from the World Food Programme (WFP):

- In 2007, the WFP provided **3.3 million tons of food** for **86.1 million people** in 80 countries worldwide. More than half (51.8 percent) of those people were in Africa, including:
  - **53.6 million** children
  - **8.8 million** internally displaced people
  - **1.9 million** refugees
  - **1.3 million** people affected by HIV/AIDS
- Total cost: **\$2.97 billion** in U.S. dollars

## ■ Vocabulary

- **biofuel (n)**: fuel made of or produced from plant material or animal waste, such as wood, corn, or cow dung.
- **famine (n)**: a severe, widespread shortage of food; also extreme hunger; starvation. From French *faim*, and Latin *fames* (*FAH-meez*), both of which mean “hunger.”
- **programme (n)**: the British spelling for *program*. (See “Language Arts,” next column.)

## ■ Related Resources

For more information on the aid agencies mentioned in this article, visit their Web sites:

- Mercy Corps: [mercy corps.org](http://mercy corps.org).
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP): [wfp.org/english](http://wfp.org/english). See also [friendsofwfp.org](http://friendsofwfp.org).

## ■ Content-Area Questions

### GEOGRAPHY

1. How many independent countries in the Americas are rated “extremely low” in terms of percent of population undernourished? (three: Canada, the U.S., and Argentina. Greenland is not an independent country.)
2. What is Nepal’s capital? (Kathmandu) Nepal is on which continent? (Asia)

### LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Note the spelling of “programme.” Americans and the British both speak English, but with differences in spelling and sometimes meaning. Examples: *colour* instead of *color*; *jumper* for *sweater*). How many other examples can you find? (Answers will vary. Some include *humour*, *trainers* for *sneakers*, *crisps* for *potato chips*, *chips* for *french fries*, *lift* for *elevator*, *flat* for *apartment*.)

### MATH

1. What is the difference in the percent of income that Haitians and Americans spend on food? (45 to 55 percent)

### SCIENCE

1. Why is clean drinking water as important as nutritious food? (Good food is useless if the water causes diarrhea, which accounts for about 8 percent of all deaths in Africa and Asia.)
2. What health hazards does Clyde Otieno Odour face in his neighborhood in Nairobi, Kenya? (open sewers, garbage in the roads, shortage of wholesome food)

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## News: And the Winner Is . . . (p. 3)

### ► NCSS STANDARD

Power, authority, and governance

*The winner has been decided, but this isn't the end of JS's coverage of Election 2008. Upcoming features include reports on the inauguration and the new Obama administration.*

### ■ Food for Thought

Until Franklin D. Roosevelt's second inauguration in 1937, Presidents were inaugurated in March. In an era when traveling was on horseback or by carriage, it took time for the new President to travel from his home to the capital. The Twentieth Amendment, ratified in 1933, changed the date to January 20, three months closer to the election. Today, some people think that new Presidents

should take office even sooner after the election. What do you think? Give reasons for and against such a change.

### ■ Word's Worth

● **transition (n):** a change or passage from one state, phase, subject, or place to another; the process of such a change. The word is from the Latin *transientem*, meaning "passing over or away." The prefix *trans*, meaning over, through, or across is common in English. Examples: *transportation, transit, transparent, transcendent, transfer, and transatlantic*. How many others can you name—and define?

### ■ Keep Track

As President-elect Obama and his transition team announce appointees to the new Cabinet, have students list their names and titles-to-be in their notebooks or on a wall display.



### WEB LINKS

- Front pages of newspapers, from the U.S. and abroad, on November 5, the day after Obama was elected President: [newseum.org/todaysfrontpages](http://newseum.org/todaysfrontpages) or [obama2008.s3.amazonaws.com/headlines.html](http://obama2008.s3.amazonaws.com/headlines.html).
- For more Web links related to this and other features in this issue, please visit [scholastic.com/juniorscholastic/urls](http://scholastic.com/juniorscholastic/urls).



## American History: The Barbary Pirates (pp. 10-13)

### ► NCSS STANDARD

Time, continuity, and change

*Early Americans were not so sure that the country could afford a navy. But attacks on U.S. ships and the ensuing Tripolitan War (1801-1805) helped convince Congress of the need for a naval force.*

### ■ Backstory

After the U.S. gained independence from Britain in 1783, many citizens wondered: Do we still need a navy? A majority in Congress said no. To them, a navy was not worth its enormous expense. Leaders such as Thomas Jefferson also warned against building a powerful military establishment, like the one the British had used to control its American colonies. As a result,

George Washington's Continental Army, which had won the Revolution, was reduced to 700 men. The Navy was disbanded.

But pressure to protect U.S. interests at sea increased. In 1798, Congress passed an act authorizing a permanent U.S. Navy. The act also established "a corps of marines." The role the first Marines played in the Tripolitan Wars has been immortalized in the words "to the shores of Tripoli" in the "Marines' Hymn."

### ■ Rapid Review

● The young United States waged a periodic conflict with pirates and their sponsors from the Barbary States that lasted until 1815.

- The Barbary Coast of North Africa borders which body of water? (Mediterranean Sea)
- Which four countries were known as the Barbary States? (Tripoli; Tunis, Algiers, and Morocco)
- Which U.S. President sent a fleet of four ships to the Mediterranean in 1801? (Thomas Jefferson)



### WEB LINKS

- Captain Stephen Decatur, [history.navy.mil/bios/decatur.htm](http://history.navy.mil/bios/decatur.htm)
- Thomas Jefferson and the Barbary Pirates, [youtube.com/watch?v=F2jig2WLkao](http://youtube.com/watch?v=F2jig2WLkao)
- The Tripolitan War, [infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0849443.html](http://infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0849443.html)