

Food Label Artifacts: Nutritional Label – Compare and Contrast - Chemistry

Essential Question: In what ways are commercial foods similar and different between Ethiopia and America

Standards:

3.2.C.A4 - Predict how combinations of substances can result in physical and/or chemical changes

3.2.12.B7. See Science as Inquiry in the Introduction for grade level indicators.

Objectives:

SWBAT read and understand the content on a nutrition label

SWBAT compare the similarities between food labels in America and food labels from Ethiopia

SWBAT research one chemical substance used in food in detail and understand its impact globally

Tools/Materials:

Photographs of food labels or laminated physical versions

Procedure:

1. Encourage students beforehand to bring in or look up examples of food labels that they see on an everyday basis. Ensure each student has at least 1 label to work with.
2. Ask students to begin by individually examining their own label and list relevant nutritional information on a piece of paper.
3. Ask students to repeat this process using the label from Ethiopia.
4. Form students into small groups from 2-5 individuals depending on class size and dynamic.
5. In their small groups ask students to identify one substance that appears on a majority of the labels they were working with. Especially encourage one that is present in both the Ethiopian and American labels.
6. Ask students using their research skills to:
 - a. Identify the substances common and scientific name
 - b. Explain its purpose in food chemistry
 - c. Identify any harmful repercussions of using this substance
 - d. List at least one company that produces this chemical for manufacturing
 - e. Explain the process by which this chemical is made
7. After students turn in group work ask students to individually reflect on one similarity and one difference they noticed between the food labels from the differing countries.

Attachments:

Links for further learning:

