

## LESSON THREE: Research Project on World Hunger



### The GOALS of this lesson are to:

- understand hunger as a complex worldwide phenomenon which results from economic, social and political factors (SOCIAL STUDIES, SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY)
- build an in-depth understanding of the reasons for hunger in one particular country, and compare this to the reasons for hunger in the United States and other countries

This lesson has two components: a **RESEARCH PROJECT** of gathering information about hunger in representative countries; and a **DISCUSSION** of what each group learned and what the class as a whole learned from the project.



### RESEARCH PROJECT

Assignment: Give this assignment a week or two in advance of the lesson. You may want to allow class time to do the research in small groups prior to the class discussion.

Divide the class into small groups and assign each group one of the following countries: Mozambique, Cambodia, El Salvador and China. Have the groups address the following questions:

- What is the extent of hunger in this country? What is this estimate based on, and how reliable is it? How has the extent of hunger changed during the recent history of this country?
- What are the economic, social and political factors contributing to hunger in this country? Which reasons are the most pressing (ex. population size; war; climate, etc.)?
- What is likely to happen in the future with regard to the hungry in this country? How can the problem best be addressed?

Have each group prepare a written report of what they learned. Have them also prepare to present their findings back to the class with different members of the small groups presenting different parts of the research.



### DISCUSSION

Have each small group report their findings back to the full class. After all of the reports have been presented, discuss:

- What are the various factors which contribute to world hunger on different continents and in different countries? What issues are the same, regardless of the country? What issues are different?
- How do the causes of hunger in these countries compare with the causes of hunger in the United States? What is similar, and what is different?
- What are the different strategies which could be used to combat hunger in each of these countries? Which ones will be easier to implement? Which will be hardest? Why?

## NOTES



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Have each small group pick one member of the group to role play the leader of the country being considered. Have the leader of each country make a plea before the United Nations seeking support for alleviating hunger in his/her nation. Have the class talk about which pleas were most compelling and why.