

HARVEST "FAMILY FORTUNES"

Aims:

To appreciate the wealth of food available to us and to be grateful for those who have worked to provide these.

To raise awareness of some of the issues surrounding food production, economics and exploitation.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Split the congregation into two teams. Appoint a leader for each team.

Each team leader joins the host at the front.

The host asks the leaders to name a food item that is found in a kitchen beginning with the letter "H". The host checks whether the quickest respondent's named item is on the list provided by a survey. If so, then that respondent's team has control of the first round of the game. If not, then the other leader's answer is checked against the survey. If the item is on the list then that team has control of the game for that round.

Round 1

The team leader has 20 seconds to guess the remaining four items on the survey's list in consultation with other team members. If the team guesses wrongly three times the game is transferred to the opposing team, who will then have one chance to guess an item on the list. (Repetition of items is not permitted). All the points are then awarded to the team that has won the round. The points scored will depend upon their position on the survey that chose those items. i.e. "Ham" was the top score and wins 5 points. "Haloumi" was the bottom score and wins 1 point.

To prepare for the next round both team leaders come to the front again. The host asks the leaders to name a food item that is found in a kitchen beginning with the letter "A". The host checks whether the quickest respondent's named item is on the list provided by the survey. If so, then that respondent's team has control of the second round of the game. If not, then the other leader's answer is checked against the survey. If the item is on the list then that team has control of the game for that round.

Round 2

The team leader has 20 seconds to guess the remaining four items on the survey's list in consultation with other team members. If the team guesses wrongly three times the game is transferred to the opposing team, who will then have one chance to guess an item on the list. (Remember, repetition of items is not permitted). All the points are then awarded to the team that has won the round.

The points scored will depend upon their position on the survey that chose those items. i.e. "Apples" was the top score and wins 5 points. "Asparagus" was the bottom score and wins 1 point.

The game continues with the competition to win control over the game and then guess the answers to the survey for successive rounds – "R", "V", "E", "S", "T". The overall winner is the team with the highest total of points at the end of the "T" round.

SURVEY – FOODS THAT YOU FIND IN YOUR KITCHEN (FRESH OR STORE CUPBOARD)*

ROUND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	HAM 33%	APPLES 66%	RICE 39%	VINEGAR 45%	EGGS 68%	SUGAR 42%	TEA 50%
	HONEY 26%	ARTICHOKES 14%	RADISHES 26%	VEGETABLES 32%	ENDIVE 13%	SAUSAGES 25%	TOMATOES 29%
	HARICOT BEANS 22%	ALMONDS 10%	RHUBARB 22%	VEAL 10%	EDAM 10%	SALT 21%	TUNA 11%
	HUMOUS 11%	ANCHOVIES 7%	RASPBERRIES 9%	VERMICELLI 7%	EVAPORATED MILK 6%	STRAWBERRIES 8%	TREACLE 7%
	HALLOUMI 8%	ASPARAGUS 3%	RUNNER BEANS 4%	VESTA MEAL 3%	EMMENTAL 3%	SAUCE 4%	TAPIOCA 3%

(based on a survey conducted in June 2012)

As play progresses the host may use the crib notes to make interesting comments about the foodstuffs.

FACTS ABOUT FOODSTUFFS

HARICOT BEANS – are also known as Navy beans or Boston Beans and are mostly consumed in the USA and Britain. They are most commonly found in Baked Beans. They can help reduce cholesterol and lower blood pressure. They are one of the staple food of vegetarians.

APPLES – the largest apple ever picked weighed three pounds, two ounces. One medium apple contains about 80 calories. Contrary to popular belief, there is no mention of an apple as the forbidden fruit in the Bible. It is referred to as "fruit from the Tree of Knowledge" with no specification as to which kind of fruit. It was Hugo Van Der Goes who first implicated the apple as the forbidden fruit in his 1470 A.D. painting, *The Fall of Man*. After that, it became popular to depict the apple as the forbidden fruit.

RICE – is the most important grain in the world for human consumption. There are more than 40,000 varieties of rice that grow on every continent except on Antarctica. Thailand is the highest exporter of rice. Rice hulls can be burned to produce energy. Rice is a symbol of life and fertility, which is why rice was traditionally thrown at weddings.

VINEGAR – is an alcoholic liquid that has been allowed to sour and the most common concentrates are wine, beer and rice. As well as being a foodstuff, over the centuries it has also been used as a medicine (being added to lead for a deadly concoction known as “sweet lead”), a corrosive and a preservative.

EGGS - A hen requires 24 to 26 hours to produce an egg. 30 minutes later, she starts all over again. Hens with white feathers and ear lobes produce white shelled eggs. Hens with red or brown feathers and red ear lobes produce brown shelled eggs. The most yolks ever found in an egg is nine—in a chicken’s egg. There are currently over 20 million battery hens in Britain. (2012, www.henhouse.co.uk) A hen enters a cage at 20 weeks and will remain in the cage for an average of 52 weeks before slaughter. Each hen has less space than an A4 piece of paper in which to move around. 70% of eggs produced in the UK still come from

battery hens. On average a battery hen lays only 15 more eggs a year than a hen that has been kept in barn or free range conditions.

SUGAR - The world produced about 168 million tonnes of sugar in 2011. The average person consumes about 24 kilograms of sugar each year, equivalent to over 260 food calories per person, per day. Sugar comes from two sources – sugarcane (a grass) and sugar beet (a root crop). Currently, Brazil, Thailand, Australia and India are the biggest exporters of sugar (2010). Although the EU, US and Indonesia import the most sugar, Brazil consumes the greatest amount per person in the world. In Brazil labour exploitation occurs when sugar cane is harvested for ethanol production.

TEA – is the second most consumed beverage in the world. India is the world’s largest tea producer - 850,000 tonnes being produced last year (2011). Tea is almost exclusively hand-picked. The task is complicated because most workers are hired by tea estates that have hardly changed in a century. Estates are run as small kingdoms, with worker’s accommodation supplied by the company. In tea estates the premium is initially held by the estate owners but under Fairtrade rules, the estates must set up a joint body of managers and workers who decide how the premium is spent. Costs are higher in India in part because of laws that estates must provide workers with education and medical care and drinking water.

The following devotions may be used in conjunction with the game.

DEVOTIONS

Have you ever noticed that the English word “HARVEST” can be altered to mean the very opposite? It can be altered to an anagram meaning the total lack of necessary resources for life. Within “HARVEST” there is also, “STARVE”. We have been thinking of foodstuffs beginning with the letters of the word “HARVEST”, food like, ham, apples, rice, vinegar, sugar, eggs and tea, all things that we can readily buy for our kitchen cupboards. What else might “h” stand for – “hell” and “hopelessness” and “helpless”. We often feel helpless about the starvation of millions of people. Starving people also feel helpless, as do those suffering from unfair working conditions or those who do not receive a fair price for the food they produce and so cannot feed their own families or contribute to the prosperity of their communities. How do we ensure that the “h” factor of harvest allows for distribution of supplies and fair working conditions for those who produce food for the world? Also hidden within the word “HARVEST” is the word “SHARE” and so this harvest in humility we pray –

O God of Harvest, great and various,
Help us find ways, large, little and diverse,
To co-operate with creation; to re-structure our economies;
To share our harvests
So that the potential to “STARVE” hidden within “HARVEST” may not last as such;
That harvest should be hope for all, therefore healthy harvests need to continue.
May we always value fruitfulness from planting as a gift from You, Creator God, and use it wisely and generously. Amen.

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