

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

Analyzing Food Deserts WEBQUEST – Due Friday, November 18

Use the links on my blog to answer these questions.

[Link 1: Michelle Obama Let's Move Video](#)

1. According to Michelle Obama, how many Americans live in a food desert?

2. What is Michelle Obama's goal?

3. How is she going to meet the goal?

[Link 2 – Surviving in a Food Desert Article](#)

4. How does the USDA define a food desert?

5. In rural areas, how far away do grocery stores need to be to create a food desert?

6. . In metropolitan areas (that's another word for cities or urban areas), how far away do grocery stores need to be to create a food desert?

7. Finish the sentence "Gassen says many people _____
_____ when they don't have a way to get to a grocery store."

8. In addition to not always having fresh, healthy food, what is another problem if low-income people have to depend on convenience stores or restaurants to get food?

Link 3: Good Shepherd Food Bank Maine Stats

9. How many people in Maine are considered "food insecure" - meaning they do not have regular access to safe, healthy, affordable food. Include the percentage and number of people.

10. How does the number of food insecure people in Maine rank in comparison to other states in the US?

11. Do we have more food insecure or less food secure people compared to the rest of the country?

12. How many children in Maine are considered "food insecure." Include the percentage and number of people.

13. How many seniors in Maine experience marginal, low or very low food security?

Link 4 – Maine Interactive Map of Food Insecurity

Put your mouse over each county to get the following information:

14. What percentage of people are considered food insecure in Cumberland County?

15. Which Maine county has the highest percentage of food insecure people? What is the percentage?

16. Which Maine county has the lowest percentage of food insecure people? What is the percentage?

Link 5 – Food Access Atlas

When researchers are deciding if an area is a "food desert", they consider three things:

- distance and number of grocery stores,
- how much money people have to spend, and
- if people have transportation (cars or public transportation) to get to stores.

That information was used to make this map.

KEY:

- LI - Low Income (not very much money)
- LA - Low Access (challenges with transportation)
- Green = food deserts

17. Zoom in on Maine so you can see city names like Bangor, Augusta and Portland. Are Maine's food deserts more in urban areas or rural areas?

18. Why do you think this is?

19. Zoom out to the whole United States. Are the locations of food deserts evenly distributed or do some areas have more than others? Explain.

20. Would you say there are a lot of food deserts in the US? Why or why not?

[Link 6 – The Cost of Eating Healthy](#) - VIDEO

21. Watch the video located at the bottom of this article. According to a new study, how much more expensive is it for 1 person to eat healthy food for 1 day?

22. What is the cost for a year?

23. DO THE MATH: What is the yearly increase in cost for a family of 4 to buy healthy food instead of unhealthy food?

24. YOUR THOUGHTS: Write at least three ideas you have to reduce the number of food deserts in Maine: