Migration in Global Context Symposium

Symposium Schedule

Apr 15th, 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM

What It's Like to Be a Migrant Worker

Jonathan Harris

St. Gabriel Consolidated School

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Harris, Jonathan, "What It's Like to Be a Migrant Worker" (2016). Migration in Global Context Symposium. 1.
https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/globalmigration/Symposium/Panel2/1

Questions? Contact Dr. Shelley Rose, Director of Social Studies, Department of History, Cleveland State University.
Phone: 216-687-3926/Email: shelley.rose@csuohio.edu
What It’s Like to be a Migrant Worker

Project-based lesson for 7-8 grade students
Jonathan Harris
St. Gabriel Consolidated School, Cincinnati, Ohio
Step 1, Reading a First Person Account


What's it like to be a migrant farmworker? One anthropologist lived and worked alongside them.
Step 2: Comprehension, explaining and looking at farm work from a migrant point of view

1.) What led the author to do this?

2.) Author quote: “Field supervisors made fun of author for doing that work but were also trying to help author keep up.” How would this make you feel.

3.) Explain why the author explained picking as “pure torture.”
Step 2, continued: Comprehension, explaining and looking at farm work from a migrant point of view

4.) In your own words, what did the author mean by “I knew at some level that my livelihood didn’t really depend on how many strawberries I picked.”

5.) Why does the author disagree with the classification of strawberry pickers as unskilled laborers?
Step 2, continued: Comprehension, explaining and looking at farm work from a migrant point of view

• 6.) What does the author think of having machines pick berries? Why?
• 7.) The author was asked how this research affected his grocery shopping. How has it affected yours?
Step 3: Identify fruits and vegetables currently picked by migrant workers


- How the produce aisle looks to a migrant farmworker

- Tomato, Onion, Avocado, Strawberry, explain how each is picked and the problems with picking each one.

- Which one was quoted as being the least favorite? Why?
Step 4: Memories of Farm Work


- I tried to push away memories of farm work, but shopping for food brings them back

- Author feels guilty about throwing out food because he knows how hard it is to pick it, what do you think about this statement?
Step 5: Putting it all together

• Choose a fruit or vegetable and create a poster or Powerpoint showing the following.
• Find a label or identify a farm for your fruit/vegetable
• Identify who (farm’s name) and where (city and state)
• List the steps needed to pick your fruit/vegetable
Example Powerpoint

• Example project found on next slide
Bunny Luv Carrots
Grimmway Farms
Kern County California

www.grimmway.com
Harvesting Carrots

http://www.wikihow.com/Harvest-Carrots

- Use your garden fork and dig into the ground from the side of the carrot's row. Lever the soil up.
- Get a good grip, but not a tight one, on the green tops while you pull them up.
- Inspect each carrot for holes and blemishes (color changes).
- Air dry them on the surface for about 20 minutes or so before putting them in storage. The tops will help keep them fresh, so don't cut them off.