April 2021

Student Pages - Maps

Center for Urban Resilience

Name: _____ Period/Class: _____ Date:_____

Activity 6.2: How far did this lunch travel?
(Scaled World and U.S. Maps)

Many of us rarely give much thought to where the food we eat originally came from. A lunch bag containing a tuna fish sandwich with a bag of potato chips, a small carton of milk and fruit salad may not seem like an "energy sucker", but do you know how far this food traveled to get to the bag?

Food	Product of
Tuna Fish - "Chicken of the Sea"	Thailand
Bread	A local bakery
Mayonnaise – "Hellman's"	New Jersey
Potato Chips	Washington State, Colorado or Idaho
Milk – "Horizon Organic"	Colorado
Fruit Salad - Banana	Costa Rica
Fruit Salad – Orange "Sunkist"	South Africa
Fruit Salad – Kiwi "Zespri"	New Zealand
Fruit Salad – Grapes	California
Fruit Salad – Strawberries	Mexico

For each of the following food items, determine the distance traveled from its producer to Massachusetts. Use the scale on the map and a ruler to help you estimate the distances. Complete the table below and then answer the questions.

Food	Distance traveled to Massachusetts
Tuna Fish - "Chicken of the Sea"	
Bread	
Mayonnaise – "Hellman's"	
Potato Chips	
Milk – "Horizon Organic"	
Fruit Salad - Banana	
Fruit Salad – Orange "Sunkist"	
Fruit Salad – Kiwi "Zespri"	
Fruit Salad – Grapes	
Fruit Salad – Strawberries	
Total Distance Traveled	

1. The circumference of the earth is approximately 24,900 miles. Compare your total distance traveled to the circumference of the earth. How far around the earth did your food travel? How does your total above compare to that number?

2. What are some forms of transportation that would need to be used in order to bring different types of food products and ingredients to the average lunch bag? How might this contribute to climate change?

3. Reflecting on your answer to question #2, what are some choices you could make in preparing a lunch that would contribute less to climate change? Why?