



Where does our food come from, and what does feeding the world actually take?

What's on your plate, and where did it begin?

Look at the photograph and consider:

- a) Where in the world might the ingredients have come from?
- b) What did nature have to provide to produce this meal?





What are we going to learn?

Learning objectives

1. Describe how agricultural land is currently distributed and used globally.
2. Explain why the amount of land needed to produce food varies depending on what is being grown.
3. Analyse how global food systems are connected to food security.

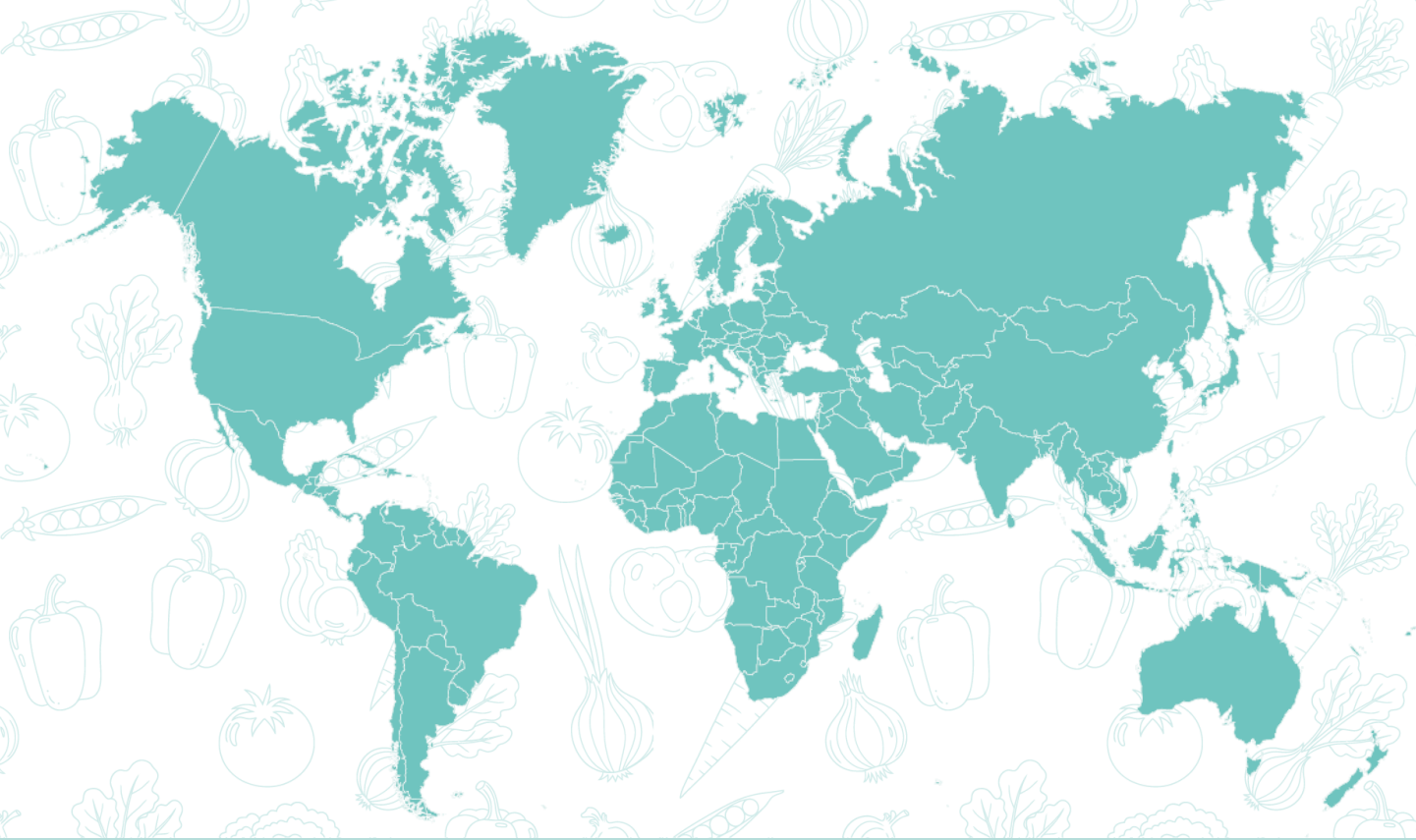
Key terms

Land use - how an area of land is used by people. In farming, this includes which foods are grown or which farmed animals are kept there.

Food security - the ability of people to access enough safe and nutritious food.

Natural resources - materials found in nature that humans use (including land, water and soil) to produce food, energy and other goods.

How much land do we farm?



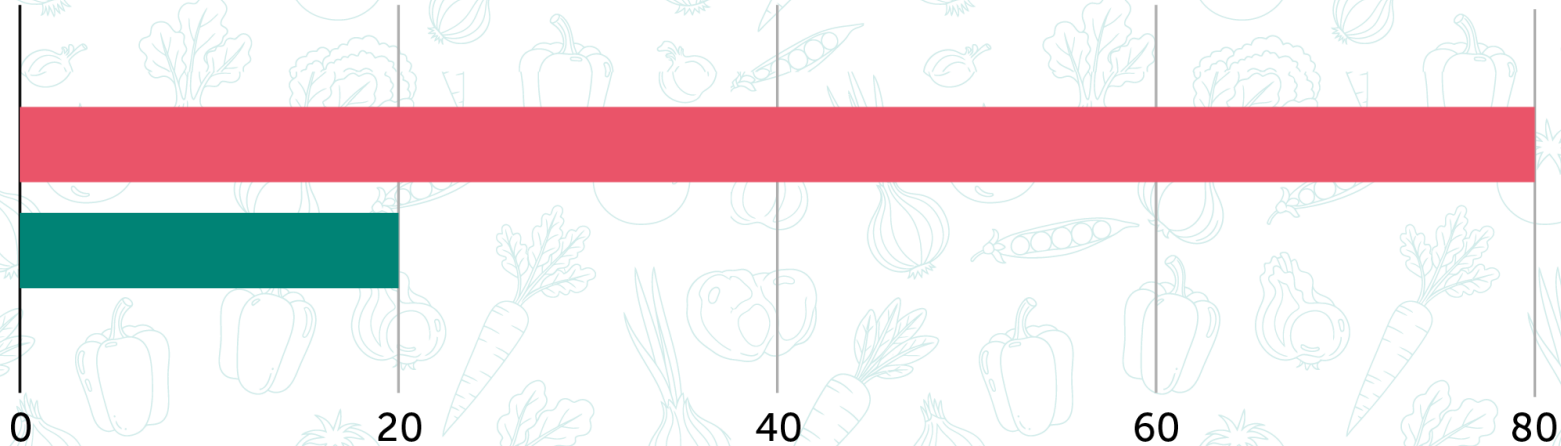
Agricultural land



Used for animal farming (for grazing or growing crops to feed animals)



Used to grow crops directly for people to eat



Why so much land?



Food security





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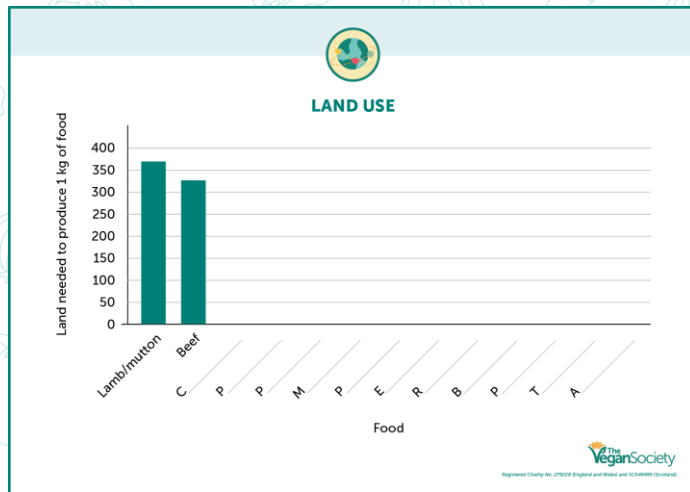
How much land does our food actually need?

Work through the following tasks:

Sort

Food	Land needed to produce 1 kg of food
Cheese	87.79 m ²
Peas	7.46 m ²
Apples	0.63 m ²
Rice	2.80 m ²
Lamb and mutton	369.81 m ²
Potatoes	0.88 m ²
Poultry meat	12.22 m ²
Bananas	1.93 m ²
Beef	326.21 m ²
Milk	8.95 m ²
Eggs	6.27 m ²
Pig meat	17.36 m ²
Tomatoes	0.80 m ²

Plot



Discuss

1. What pattern do you notice between animal-based and plant-based foods?
2. Why do you think beef and lamb require so much more land than the other foods listed?
3. 80% of the world's agricultural land is used for grazing or growing animal feed.* Does your chart help explain why?
4. A geographer would ask: "So what?" What might this data mean for how we think about feeding a growing world population?
5. Using what you know about how agricultural land is used, explain how the global food system might make food insecurity better or worse. Think about who has access to land and what that land is producing.

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Write a geographical analysis that answers the enquiry question above. Your response should:

- ✓ Use precise geographical terminology throughout.
- ✓ Refer to specific data from your bar chart as evidence.
- ✓ Explain the relationship between land use and food security.
- ✓ Consider why progress on food security has been unequal across different regions of the world.
- ✓ End with a concluding geographical argument - not just a summary, but a reasoned point about what the evidence suggests.

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Paragraph 1 - How is agricultural land used globally?

Describe how the world's agricultural land is currently distributed and used. Include at least one statistic.

Paragraph 2 - What does the land use data show?

Refer to your bar chart. Describe the pattern you found, and give at least two specific examples from the data to support your point.

Paragraph 3 - How does this connect to food security?

Explain what food security means and how the way land is used affects people's ability to access enough food. Use the term 'food security' in your answer.

Paragraph 4 - Geographical conclusion

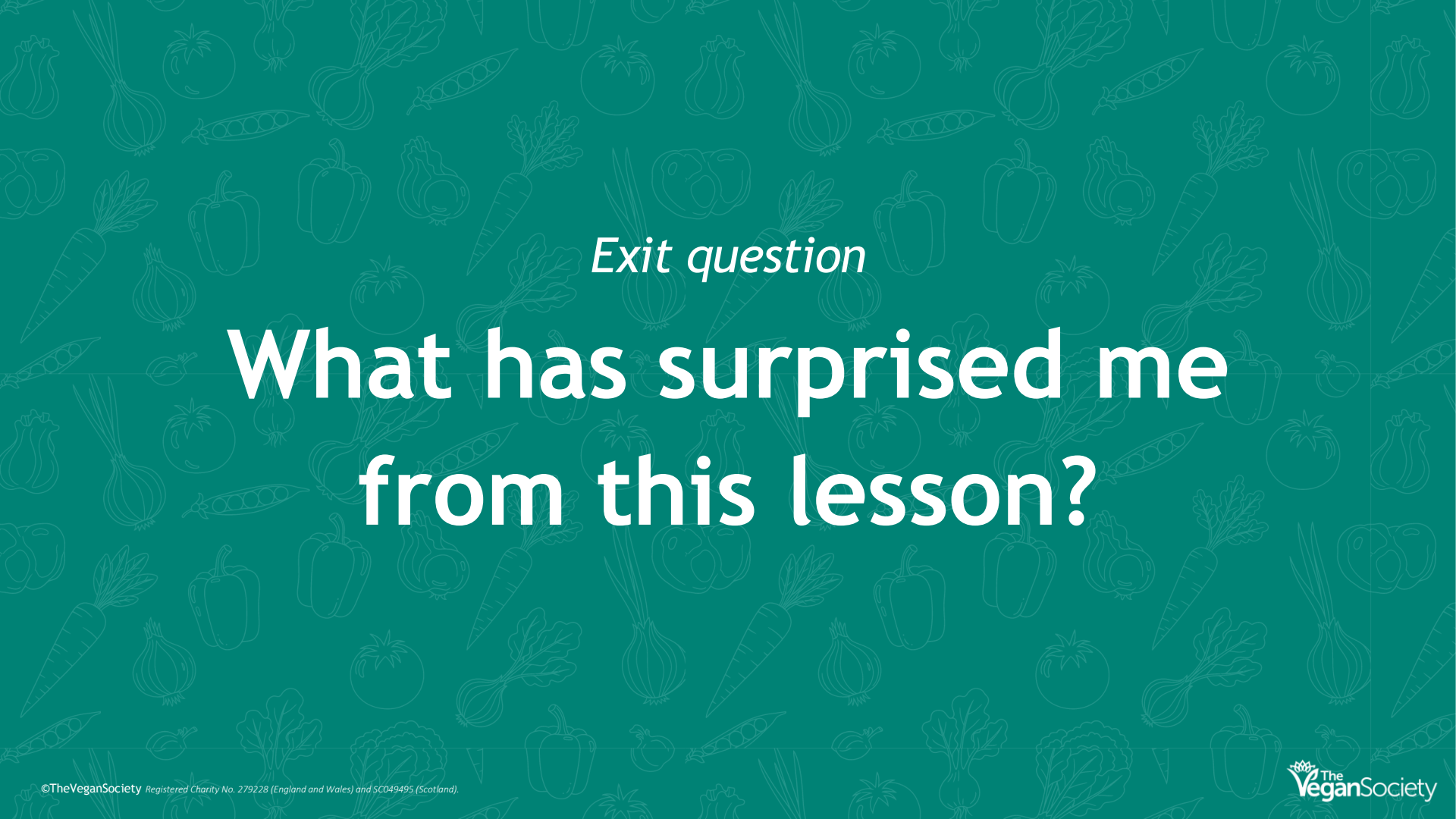
Answer the enquiry question in your own words. What does feeding the world actually take, and what are the geographical implications of the current food system?

Key terms to include:
land use, food security,
natural resources,
conversion problem

Challenge
Explain the connection between how agricultural land is currently used and levels of food insecurity around the world. In your answer, consider who benefits from the current food system and who doesn't.

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Exit question

**What has surprised me
from this lesson?**