

# Fair Food Now!

## Farmworker Awareness Week Lessons



*Monday*

*Tomatoes - From Farm to Store*

*Thursday*

*Sovereign Fair Food Future*

*Tuesday*

*Juan goes to a non-Fair Food Program farm*

*Friday*

*Support Farmworkers*

*Wednesday*

*Julia goes to a Fair Food Program Farm*

*Notes*

*To do:*



**Monday**

# Fair Food Now!

## Tomatoes: From Farm to Store

### Materials

- 10 fresh Tomatoes (or 10 paper tomatoes)
- Sticky notes (for labeling tomatoes)
- Map of the US with two pins and a piece of string/yarn
- Calendar (marked with winter season months Dec-March)
- Photos (tomatoes, farmworkers, trucks, grocery display)

### Activities

**What is a tomato?**

[Show a tomato.]



What can you tell me about this tomato? Let's make a list on the board.

- It's red
- It's round
- It's a fruit...

Where do tomatoes come from? (the store, fields, backyard garden) This tomato came from (name of grocery store).

So we know a little bit about this tomato. We know it's red, it's round, it's a fruit, (continue to read list), and I bought it at (name of grocery store).

**Where do tomatoes come from?**

Where does (name of the grocery store) get their tomatoes? (From large farms).

[Show map of United States]



Can anyone show me where we live on this map? [Put a pin on the map. The pin should have a long piece of yarn and another pin at the end of it.]

# Fair Food Now!

## Tomatoes: From Farm to Store

### Activites

In winter, about 90 percent of the fresh tomatoes produced in the United States come from Florida. [Show classroom calendar.]

Who can name the months in winter season? (December, January, February, March)

This means 9 out of 10 of the tomatoes grown in the U.S. that go on our sandwiches or salads come from Florida. The others may come from another state or country.

[Show 10 tomatoes. Remove one tomato and group the rest together. Label to show how many come from Florida and how many come from elsewhere.]



Can anyone show me where Florida is on this map? [Put the second pin anywhere in the southern part of Florida. The yarn should now stretch between your location and Florida.]

When we go to the grocery store to buy fresh tomatoes during the winter, a lot of these tomatoes have come from Florida.

**Bonus question: Who can calculate how many miles this tomato traveled to get to our town? [Use Immokalee, Florida to calculate mileage.]**

[Place 9 tomatoes on the map over Florida and 1 tomato over another place like Texas, California, Canada or Mexico.]

**How do tomatoes get from Farms in Florida to Grocery Stores around the country?**

Do you know who picks these Florida tomatoes that we buy in the grocery store? (Farmworkers: adults, teenagers)

[Show images of farmworkers.]



# Fair Food Now!

## Tomatoes: From Farm to Store

### Activites

Each winter, thousands of farmworkers like these people in the photos pick tomatoes for a majority of the country.

Tomatoes are picked and dumped into large trucks that can carry tons of tomatoes. [Show picture of trucks in fields.]



They are sent to warehouses and put into boxes. The boxes are put into trucks to go to grocery stores.

[Show picture of grocery trucks - Kroger, Publix]



At stores, they are displayed for you and I to buy. [show photo of fair food display]



**This week we will learn more about their story and their work to make a better food system for all of us.**

(Photos and information from [www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org))

**Tuesday**

# Fair Food Now!

Juan goes to a non-Fair Food Program farm

## Materials

- Photos of farmworkers, farm (attached)
- 1 Bucket or container that can be lifted
- 32 lbs of bagged rice, beans or canned food that can fit in a container
- Play money (bills, coins including at least 2 quarters)

## Activites

### Review:

Do you remember what we said about this tomato? Who remembers where it came from?  
(name your local chain).

Where do grocery stores get their tomatoes? (from large farms).

Who can show me on the map where about 90 percent of the fresh tomatoes in the winter come from?  
(Florida)

Today we're going to talk about one important town in Florida that helps us understand what it's like to pick tomatoes like this one.

The town is known as Immokalee and it means "My Home" in the Seminole language.

### Story: A Day in Immokalee

Juan is a farmworker. He lives in a trailer with 10 other people in a town called Immokalee. Immokalee is in southwest Florida.

It is a place where thousands of farmworkers who pick our fruit and vegetables live.

Each morning Juan wakes up at 4:30am.

It is very dark outside as he gets out of bed.

He makes tortillas and packs leftovers for his breakfast and lunch.

Then Juan walks to a parking lot in the center of town where thousands of people try to find work.

He waits.



# Fair Food Now!

Juan goes to a non-Fair Food Program farm

## Activites

Soon old school buses pull into the parking lot and all the waiting people rush toward the buses.

The driver of the bus is the crew leader.

They are in charge of picking people to work and watching them in the fields.

The crew leader picks some people to work.

They get on the bus and are driven to the tomato fields, which can be between 30 minutes to two hours away.



The rest are left behind.

They might find work, they might not. If they don't get to work, they won't earn any money that day.

Some farms treat farmworkers with respect. These farms are part of the Fair Food Program and some farms do not treat farmworkers well.

Juan and the others do not know how the farm will treat workers until they arrive.



# Fair Food Now!

## Juan goes to a non-Fair Food Program farm

### Activites

Today, Juan is on a farm that is NOT part of the Fair Food Program.

When the bus with the workers gets to the tomato fields, they wait for the dew on the tomatoes to dry.

Who knows what dew is? (condensation or water on a plant)

They are not paid for their time.

How many of you think this is not fair? Raise your hand. [Survey the group]

Then the crew leader gives them empty buckets to fill with tomatoes.

They weigh 32 pounds when filled to the top but the crew leader says they have to overfill it even though they will not be paid extra.

Who thinks this is not fair? Raise your hand. [Survey the group]

It is very hot today and the workers do not have shade.



The plants at this farm are covered in chemicals called pesticides that can make people sick. The farmworkers pick as quickly as possible because the more tomatoes they pick the more money they make.

The crew leader yells at Juan when he stops to drink water. He is scared and does not eat lunch so that he can pick more tomatoes. Juan is older and cannot pick tomatoes as quickly as the others.

He does not make as much money as the other workers even though he worked the same amount of time and did not take any breaks.

How do you think Juan might feel after working on this farm? (upset, sad, disappointed, etc.)

Juan and the others get back on the bus and are driven back to the parking lot.

When they get home it's dark. It might be 7pm, and they left early in the morning and have been gone 10-12 hours. Do you think it is fair to work that long and not have enough money to live?

They walk back to a trailer where they live with 10 other people. They often have to wait to take their turn in the shower and at the stove to cook dinner. Tomorrow, they will look for work all over again.

**Extension: make a Daily Timeline for Juan working on a non-Fair Food Program farm.**

# Fair Food Now!

Juan goes to a non-Fair Food Program farm

## Math Activities

Put 32 pounds of rice, beans, or canned food in a bucket or container without handles. Invite the children to carefully pick up the bucket or container.

How does it feel to try to lift this up? (Heavy, difficult, hard)

Did you know farmworkers fill, carry, and throw a bucket like this over 100 times a day?

There's a large truck at the edge of the field.

Every time farmworkers finish picking a bucket of tomatoes, they put the buckets on their shoulders, and walk or run with it to a truck.

Then they have to throw the bucket up in the air to a person inside the truck.

That person dumps the tomatoes into the truck and tosses the bucket back to the farmworker. For every 32 pound bucket they pick, they will be paid about 50 cents. (Show this amount in coins)



Write down everything you can buy with 50 cents?  
(Gumball, a stamp to mail a letter, not much)

A drink from a vending machine costs about \$1.00 or more.



# Fair Food Now!

## Juan goes to a non-Fair Food Program farm

### **Math Activities cont.**

What about this shirt or top? This cost me about \$25.

**Question: How many buckets would a farmworker have to harvest to buy this same shirt/top if it costs \$25?**

(The correct answer is 50 buckets)

A farmworker would have to pick about 50 buckets of tomatoes to earn enough money to buy this same shirt/top for \$25.

**Question: How many pounds of tomatoes that would be? [take guesses of weight]**

**First, let's determine how many buckets a farmworker would have to fill for \$50.**

(To earn 50 dollars, a farmworker must pick about 100 buckets of tomatoes.)

**Question: If 1 bucket weighs 32 lbs, then how many pounds is 100 buckets? (3,200 lbs)**

What else weighs about this much?

(a large car weighs between 1-1.5 tons and large vehicles up to 2 tons)

Can you imagine carrying 3,200 pounds everyday for only \$50?

**Question: Let's calculate what other costs and consider how many buckets a farmworker would have to pick to earn enough to pay for these items.**

First, make a list of what you think farmworkers need to buy with that money to take care of their families? What does your family need? (food, clothes, backpack for kids, shoes, doctor visits, etc.)

How much do shoes cost? What about clothes? (Continue with the list calculating the approximate cost)

Farmworkers usually pay rent for a trailer during the tomato seasons.

How much do you think they have to pay for rent? (\$50 a week) So rent for a week is one day of work!



Wednesday

# Fair Food Now!

Julia goes to a Fair Food Program farm

## Materials

- Photos of farmworkers, farm (attached)
- Journal
- Pencil

## Discussion

### Review:

Do you remember what we learned about Juan's day at a farm that was not part of the Fair Food Program?  
(yes)

Who can tell me one part of his day?

(waiting to work, no breaks, no shade, etc.)

Julia is also a farmworker. She lives in Immokalee, Florida, too. She lives with her family made up of her husband and three kids who go to school during the day.

Julia wakes up and makes her kids' favorite breakfast. Her husband helps the youngest get his shoes on. She and her husband walk them to school at 8:00am.

She walks to a parking lot to get picked up to go to a farm that she knows very well. Julia works on a farm that is part of the Fair Food Program.

The driver of the bus takes them to the same farm about 30 minutes away. Everyone has masks and the windows are rolled down for more air circulation.

Today, Julia is on a farm that is part of the Fair Food Program.

When the bus with the workers gets to the tomato fields, they punch in their timecards so that they can get paid hourly if they do not make enough picking by the bucket.

Who knows what a timecard is? (A card that gets stamped in a machine with the time on a clock. It tracks how much time is spent at a job)

They are paid for all of their time on the farm just like any other job.



# Fair Food Now!

## Julia goes to a Fair Food Program farm

### **Discussion cont.**

The crew leader goes over safety rules and gives them empty buckets to fill with tomatoes. Julia remembers that on this farm she does not have to overfill the buckets.

It is starting to get hot and the workers are asked to cool off in the shade and drink water for their scheduled breaks.

The plants at this farm are NOT covered in chemicals called pesticides that can make people sick.

If Julia or anyone else sees something wrong, there is a phone number they can call to file a complaint. She learned this from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers on her first day of work.

A couple of times, auditors from the Fair Food Standards Council interview the workers and check that the farm is following all of the rules in the Fair Food Program.

The farmworkers pick quickly but safely after a break.

They stop to eat lunch on nearby tables and use the new bathrooms before returning to work.

Julia did not fill as many buckets today but she is not worried. She will be paid for her time on the farm and she will also get a bonus in her check this week because she works on a Fair Food Program farm.

What is a bonus? (extra money)

How do you think Julia might feel after working on this farm? Write what you think and why. (happy, satisfied, proud, etc.)



### **Thinking Together**

Julia is a woman. Historically, women in Immokalee have been treated badly because of their gender. When someone makes a joke that makes them feel unsafe or tries to hurt them, they can call a number to report it.

The group that handles these investigations is called the Fair Food Standards Council. They are like peace-makers who make sure everyone who works on a Fair Food Farm is safe.

Right now, not every farm is part of the Fair Food Program but that will soon change. There is so much we can do to support farmworkers!

Thursday

# Fair Food Now!

## Sovereign Fair Food Future

### Materials

- Article: <http://usfoodsovereigntyalliance.org/what-is-food-sovereignty>
- Cardboard, cardstock, paper
- Colored pencils, markers

### Activity

We are starting today by writing what we already know about some words. We will write their meanings in our own words.

To start, what do you know about the words "sovereignty" and "food sovereignty"? What does "human rights" mean to you?

Let's read this article about food sovereignty. What are the main points included in this definition of food sovereignty? (focuses on food for people, values food providers, localizes food systems, puts control locally, builds knowledge and skills, works with nature)

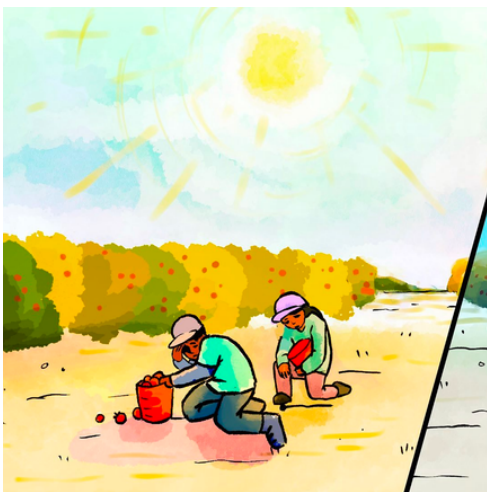
How does human rights for farmworkers relate to food sovereignty? Write about this and add an illustration to go with your writing.

### Activity

Let's compare these pictures below. What do you notice is different between the two pictures? Which one do you think is a non-Fair Food farm and which one is part of the Fair Food Program? Write about how you tell. Here are some sentence starters:

I think the picture on the left shows...because...

I believe the picture on the right is...because...



# Fair Food Now!

## Sovereign Fair Food Future

### Discussion

Some days, farmworkers on non-FFP farms cannot pick the enough tomatoes so they earn less money.

Some days it rains all day so they earn nothing because they're not able to pick.

Do you think farmworkers like Juan have enough money to take care of their families?

How was Julia's experience different that Juan's?

### Worst-case Scenario (content warning: modern-day enslavement)

In the most extreme cases, some farmworkers have been forced to work without any pay. This is called modern-day slavery.

What does it mean to be enslaved? (Can't leave, hurt, beaten, held against your will, no payment)

These are people who are held against their will, which means they are not allowed to leave and forced to work for little or no pay.

Many times are beaten or hit if they try to leave.

In a recent slavery case in Georgia, 71,000 farmworkers were being forced to work without pay.

They had to work under threats and acts of violence. Some were bought and sold to other farm bosses.

This case is going to court and the people who held the farmworkers in slavery have been arrested.

This is wrong. People should not be enslaved and people should not be treated like objects.

The story of Juan's day describes the conditions historically faced by Florida farmworkers to bring tomatoes to us.

While this is still the reality for far too many farmworkers, change is happening because farmworkers and people who buy tomatoes have come together to demand change.

**This week we will talk about how we can be part of this change. The good news is there is so much we can do!**



(Photos and information from [www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org))

# Fair Food Now!

## Support Farmworkers

Friday

### Materials

- Wendy's Manager Letter
- Cardboard, cardstock, paper
- Colored pencils, markers

### Discussion

Let's read parts of the Wendy's Manager letter and answer some questions as we go:

For over eight years, farmworkers and consumers have urged Wendy's to make a commitment to the FFP, a historic partnership among farmworkers, farmers, and 14 multibillion-dollar food retailers, including Wendy's major competitors such as McDonald's and Burger King.

### Do you know the 14 food companies that are part of the Fair Food Program?

Participating retailers commit to

- 1) purchase from farms where workers' fundamental human rights are upheld according to the Fair Food Code of Conduct and
- 2) pay a small Fair Food premium, which is passed down through the supply chain and generates a line-item bonus on farmworkers' regular paychecks.

### What is Wendy's being asked to do?

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a national spotlight on farmworkers' unique vulnerabilities, as well as the myriad human rights violations they have faced for generations, including discrimination, extreme poverty and dangerous and unsanitary work conditions. Given this grim reality for the millions of essential workers who put food on our tables, there has never been a more urgent time for Wendy's to join the FFP, the only social responsibility program in the country known to have mandatory and enforceable COVID-19 safety protocols to address farmworkers' health concerns.

### Why is it important that Wendy's join now?

#### Boycott Wendy's

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers announced a boycott of Wendy's, only the 2nd boycott in the history of the Campaign for Fair Food.

Look up the word boycott and write its meaning in your own words.



# Fair Food Now!

## Support Farmworkers

### Activities



Today we're working on creating our own art in support of farmworkers. We can show our support through messages on posters and banners. We can share them with others and encourage them to be part of the Wendy's boycott.

Look at the pictures to see examples of art made by young people. Make your own signs with similar messages.

Some common phrases are:

**Fair Food Now!**

**Farmworker Justice**

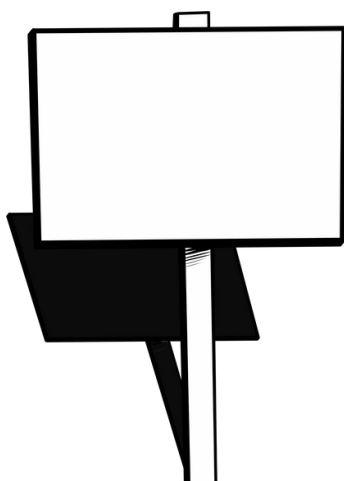
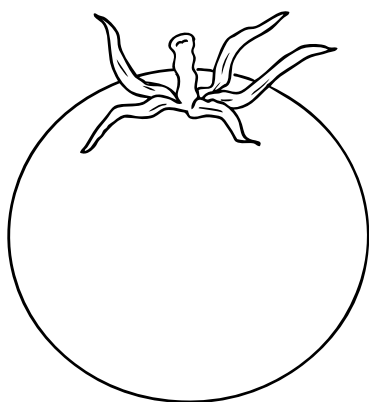
**Students for Fair Food**

**Fair Wages for Farmworkers**

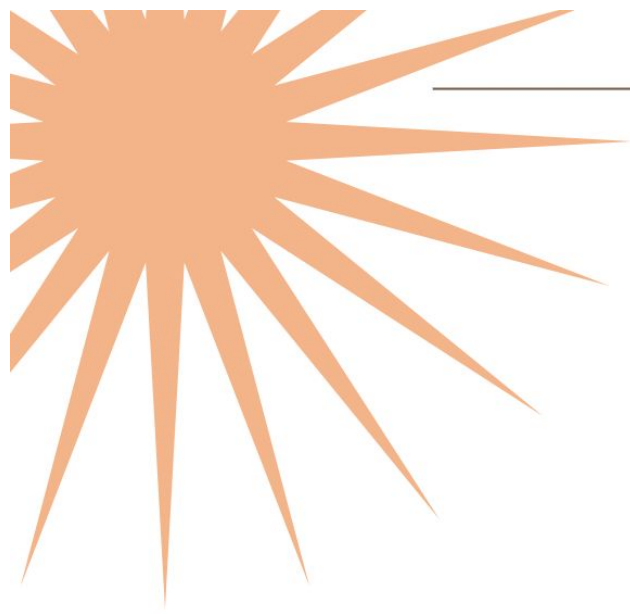
**No More Abuses**

**Respect**

**Dignity**

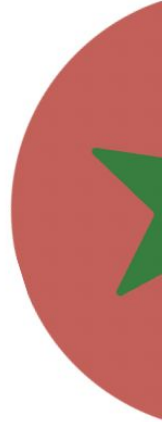


(Photos and information from [www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org))



# *Fair Food Now!*

Farmworker  
Awareness  
Week Lessons



Photos for lessons 1-5







































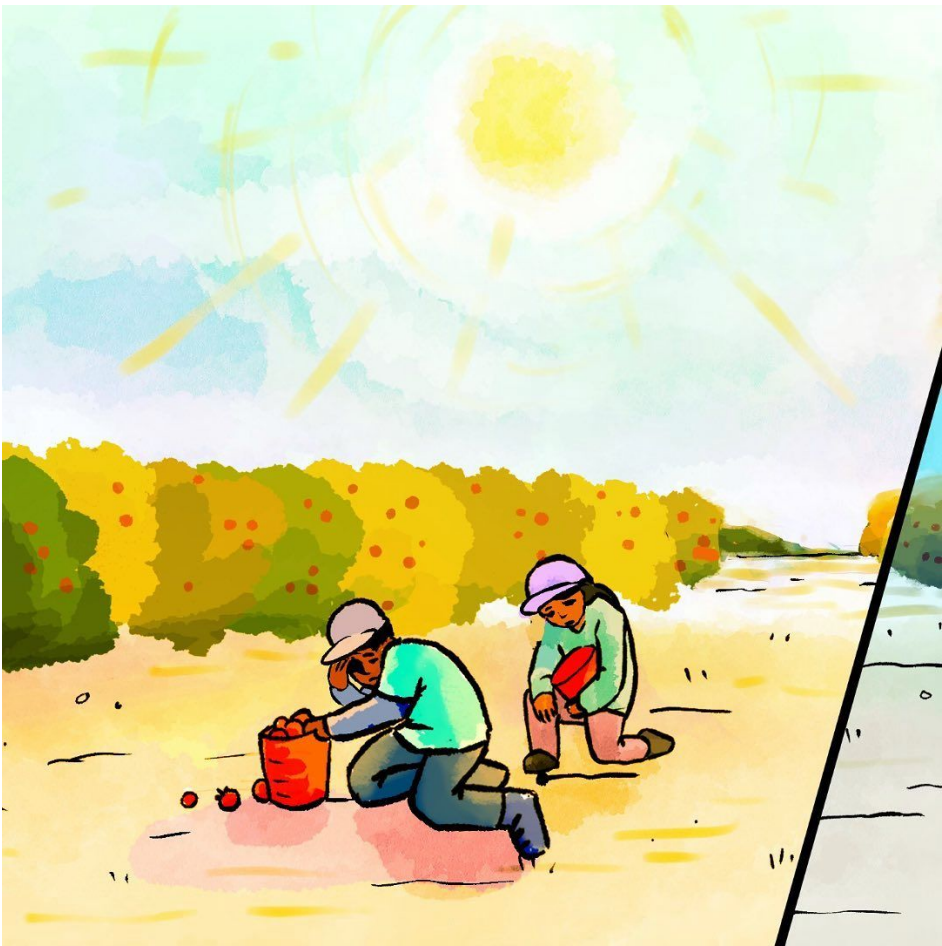














**CAN WENDY'S  
GUARANTEE  
THERE'S NO  
SLAVERY IN ITS  
SUPPLY CHAIN?**

**MARCH TO  
END MODERN  
SLAVERY IN  
THE FIELDS**

**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 2**

**PALM BEACH,  
FLORIDA**









Farmworker  
Justice!

Students for  
Fair Food

End  
Poverty  
Now!

 **BOYCOTT  
WENDY'S!**

