

# Local Foods: A Fad or a Trend?



**Ages 10 - 14**

## Lesson Overview:

In recent years grocery stores, restaurants, and commercials have touted 'local foods' to attract consumers. But what are local foods? And are they just a fad or are they here to stay? This lesson will expose students to the complexities of food systems through exposure of contrasting opinions. Students will then demonstrate their comprehension of material by creating a persuasive argument and/or participating in a debate.

## Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- compare two varying opinions and select one that best aligns with their values
- be able to argue and justify an opinion of local foods based on evidence

## Materials:

- Printed copies of the articles advocating for and against local foods:
  - Food Secure Canada - What is Behind the Trend of Local Food?
  - MacLean's Magazine - Is local food bad for the economy?
- Scrap paper for creating a 'T' chart and pencils
- Markers/pencil crayons OR access to a computer lab
- Computer
- Projector

## Lesson

### Activating Discussion:

- What is the different between a 'Fad' and a 'Trend'?
- What are local foods?
- How do we identify a local food?

### Learning Plan:

1. Show the following video titled 'Fads vs Trends' (3:10):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMx7P8m5Bf8>

**Activity Options:****Option 1: Persuasive Argument**

Persuasive Writing for Kids: What is it?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hD9arWXIddM>

Students read both articles on 'Local Foods'. Have students (individually or small groups) create a 'T' chart that weighs the pros and cons of choosing local food. Each article will raise reasonable arguments that local foods are either a trend (here to stay) or a fad (a moment).

Students will need to pick a side of the argument that they want to represent. Then, students are to design an infographic poster that highlights key components of their argument. Information on developing an effective infographic can be explained through this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rl9ZcfKt8sY>.

For developing an effective infographic, [www.piktochart.com](http://www.piktochart.com) and [www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com) are both user-friendly and free programs.

**Option 2: Class Debate**

How to run a debate (4:21): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yi6lm-Sb6Vw>

OR

Review the document "Conducting a Debate" to review how to structure a debate:

[https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/frame\\_found\\_sr2/tns/tn-13.pdf](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/frame_found_sr2/tns/tn-13.pdf)

**Appendices:**

- Appendix 1 – Food Secure Canada - What is Behind the Trend of Local Food?
- Appendix 2 – MacLean's Magazine - Is local food bad for the economy?