FOODPRINT MELBOURNE

INTRODUCTION

Melbourne is Australia's fastest growing capital city. It is projected that the population will reach more than 7 million people by 2050. An 80% increase in the population of the outer foodbowl is anticipated (900 000 people by 2050). To feed a population of 7 million people, around 60% more food will be needed (unless we change our eating habits and/or waste less food).

If the city keeps sprawling the way that it has in the past, Melbourne's foodbowl could lose up to 16% of productive farmland by 2050. This could include the loss of up to 77% of farmland in the inner foodbowl, unless urban sprawl can be contained. The foodbowl's capacity to meet the city's food needs could fall from 41% today to 18% by 2050.

ACTIVITIES

Use data sheet 8 to complete the following activities.

1. Using the data in figure 1 draw a line graph to show the change in total population for Melbourne from 1911–2016. Using a dot, mark the expected population for 2050.

2. Use your graph to describe the change in Melbourne's population over time, identifying trends and time periods where the city seems to have grown quickly.

3. From figure 2, describe the areas of Melbourne where the greatest population change is taking place.

4. From figure 3 consider the impact this population growth might have on Melbourne's foodbowl.

5. Figure 4 sets out a vision as to how Melbourne might maintain a food supply for the future and be resilient to environmental risks and the pressure of continued population growth.

    a. What aspects of today's food supply do we need to retain for feeding Melbourne's population in 2050? Consider the role of the inner foodbowl and the outer foodbowl.

    b. Further developments in technology will be important to meet Melbourne's food demands in 2050. Explain this statement in relation to providing a reliable water supply, expanding food processing, and encouraging recycling of food waste.

    c. Land to grow food crops and provide a reliable, water supply (natural and recycled) is vital for feeding Melbourne's future population. Suggest the role that urban planners and government authorities will play in ensuring an ongoing food supply.

    d. Farmers markets, U-pick farms, farm gate sales, community gardens and household vegetable plots can play a role in ensuring healthy foods are available. As a class discuss the value of these sources of food.

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6. Figure 4 sets out a vision as to how Melbourne might maintain a food supply for the future and be resilient to environmental risks and the pressure of continued population growth. Copy and complete the following table using evidence from figure 4:

A RESILIENT CITY FOODBOWL	ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE RESILIENCE
Provides fresh, healthy food to meet the needs of Melbournians as the city grows	
Fosters a vibrant regional food economy	
Increases resilience to future food system stresses and shocks	
Promotes sustainable food production and consumption, for current and future generations.	

7.
   a. Make a copy of figure 4 and annotate the image to show your understanding of the role inner city community gardens might have in supporting the food supply for a city.

   b. Visit the community gardens site at *https://goo.gl/9VTM9W*. Choose a number of the gardens and investigate their location, food crops and contribution to community wellbeing. Make a list of the positive and negative aspects of community gardens as a source of fresh food for a growing population.

   c. Are these gardens likely to produce enough food to replace food production that could be lost in Melbourne's foodbowl?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

1. Explore whether there is a community garden in your local area. Is it in an accessible location? From a vantage point, map the layout of the garden and label the foods that can be identified. Describe the scale of the community garden. If possible speak to a gardener about the importance of the community garden to them.