



## Activity: The Rice Show

Links to the Curriculum : Maths and Geography

An activity to explore and visualise statistics and to view the world differently. It also helps us to realise the true enormity of numbers, such as the true difference between; million, billion & trillion.

Further the statistics chosen here demonstrate that there is plenty of money/resources available to end world hunger it just depends on what we choose to spend on or what we prioritize. In truth Goal 2 Zero Hunger, is easily achievable if we choose to change how resources are shared and distributed.

The use of rice to depict statistics can be used to visualise any global comparison but here we are using it to consider human population and food production.

This activity is inspired by the Stan's Café performance/exhibition that has toured the world: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZ8Ixxq-OHY>

\*Note in the exhibition they use one grain of rice to symbolise one person but this results in a lot of rice!! Our version uses one grain of rice to equate to 1 million people/animals/tonnes/\$, which makes for much more manageable amounts, until you get into measuring global military budgets!!

The categories listed here are just suggestions, why not research your own? Have your own 'Rice show' exhibition, if you are careful, keeping the rice mounds on, paper, plates, trays, blankets you will be able to recollect the rice and as long as it is washed before cooking it will be perfectly fine to eat, we wouldn't want to waste food!!

If you are going to have your own rice exhibition you will need a few food scales, but most households will have them and so can easily be brought into class for the day. Pupils will really enjoy the hands on realisation of statistics!

As a guide to how much rice you will need (see table below for measurements):  
World population of 7 billion = 7000million = 7000grains of rice = 140g of rice.  
Estimated world pop' in 2050 is 9 billion, what will that look like?

Estimated global pop' of chickens in 2050 = 35billion (!!)  
35billion = 35,000million = 35,000grains of rice = 700g of rice.

Annual fizzy drink spend in the US = \$65 billion, or 1.3kg of rice.

### **THE RICE SHOW:**

If one grain of rice = 1 million of something (people, animals, tonnes or \$ ) then how much rice represents these figures?

\*Note 1 grain of rice weighs approximately 0.02grams.

\*Note 1 billion is 1000 million.

<b>Human Populations:</b>	Statistic:	Weight in rice	Number of grains
Ireland	6 million		
UK	60 million		
China	1 billion		
World	7 billion		
<b>Global farm animal population</b>			
Pigs	965million		
Cattle	1.4billion		
Goats & sheep	2billion		
Chickens	19.4billion		
Estimated chicken pop' in 2050	35billion		
<b>Global food production (in tonnes) annually</b>	(in tonnes)		
meat	302million		
Fish	154million		
Fruit	609million		
Grains	2.37billion		
Sugar	1.9billion		
Vegetables	965million		
Global annual spend on:	In \$ US dollars		
Aid	22 billion (2014)		
Military	1.57 trillion (2016)		
Fizzy drinks (US only!)	65 billion (2012)		