



Child Health: Safari Mystery Dinner

THIS ACTIVITY introduces the issue of world health in a fun and engaging way. The activity is based on a group meal and is a cross between a safari dinner, a murder mystery, and “20 Questions.”

TIME REQUIRED: 3-4 HOURS | INTENDED FOR GRADES 9-12



MATERIALS NEEDED

- » Copies of Resource, “Character Cards,” found on pages 244-249, one for each participant playing a character role
- » Pens or pencils, one for each participant
- » Copies of Resource, “Clue Cards,” found on page 250, 10 to 15 cards for each participant
- » Copies of Resource, “Child Health Prayer Card #2,” found on page 251, printed on cardstock, one card for each participant
- » Visit worldvision.org/lp/acsi-teacher-resources for a video you can show to support this lesson. (optional)

Preparation Needed

- » For ease of use, read through the whole plan in advance and familiarize yourself with the way that the activity works.
- » The session is simple to run and hinges around 10 main characters. You will need to choose a minimum of five (maximum of 10) volunteers to take on character roles. Plan to do this at least a few days prior to the event since there is some needed preparation. Be sure to choose people who are prepared to assume a role and wear a costume during the activity. Assign each volunteer a character and provide them with a copy of their assigned character card found on pages 244-249. Each character card has very basic costume suggestions. Encourage players to do a bit of Internet searching in order to develop and improve on these suggestions or to come up with better ideas of their own.

- » If you have more than 10 people in your group or if some of the people in your group are less comfortable playing a part, ask them to host, cook, or serve the meal. You will also need a facilitator to make sure that everybody is playing fair.
- » You will be taking on the role of “Master of Ceremonies,” so be sure to review the character cards and keep a copy with you during the event.
- » Find volunteers willing to provide drinks and music and to prepare/cook and host one course each of a three course “world-food” themed buffet (starter, main course, dessert). If it is not possible to find hosts within a manageable distance of each other, or if you wish to keep the event as travel-free as possible, encourage one person to host the whole meal at their house. Encourage other volunteers to provide the food and drinks and to set up and serve.

NOTE: All of the incidents and experiences used to create the characters are based on the real-life challenges recounted by individuals, but the characters themselves are fictional. Any resemblance to real people is purely coincidental and in no way intended by World Vision.

Activity Steps

1

AT THE FIRST LOCATION introduce yourself in character and explain that people should converse in character. Ask the players not to give away any of the information on their card until they are asked to. Distribute four to five copies of resource “Clue Cards” found on page 251 to each participant along with a pen or pencil.

2

READ ALOUD THE FOLLOWING scenario. Then make sure that everyone has a welcome drink.

- » My dear friends, welcome to our Safari-Mystery Dinner. Time is ticking away and there are plenty of vicious child killers on the loose. So, it’s time to get sleuthing...
- » Just in case you are getting a tight and tingly feeling in between your shoulder blades, don’t be afraid to enjoy some good food and make some new friends. In spite of their somewhat roguish appearances, the people in this room are all God-fearing and well-respected members of the community. So, you don’t need to worry about gruesome screams in the night or mysterious pools of blood. Nobody here is a murderer!
- » However, as both a witness to a crime in your own community and a budding detective, you need to use all of the wit, guile, and cunning at your disposal to solve as many mysteries as you can. So, at different stages during our dinner, I will invite you to put your little grey cells to work. Using questions that can be answered “yes” or “no,” you will need to find out as much as you can about:
 - The identities of your fellow detectives.
 - The things that are threatening the lives of people in their communities.
 - How people are stopping these killers from leaving a trail of death and destruction.

3

- » The super-sleuth who finds out the most information about their peers will be awarded the title of Best Detective. Before we get started, feel free to introduce yourselves and mingle a few moments in sophisticated chatter. Just don't reveal any of the information on the highly personal section of your character card until I say so.

GIVE PLAYERS TIME to enjoy their drink, mingle, and introduce themselves in character. It is important that the participants are not seated formally around a dining table. They can make polite conversation based on their character's personality but should not give away any of the highly personal information on their card.

4

ASSIGN THE FIRST task as noted below:

- » My fellow seekers after truth, now is the time to get detecting. Find out about the personal and family background of the other detectives. Just make sure you don't ask open questions like "tell me about your background."
- » Try to think of a concise question that can be answered "yes" or "no." For example, "are you a housewife/do you live with your family?" If you get really stuck, ask the other player for a clue.
- » You can ask up to 10 questions per person, but you only have the length of each course to complete each task.
- » You need to circulate around the room in order to find out about as many other characters as you can.
- » You may only ask questions of one person at a time. These need to be questions that can be answered "yes" or "no."
- » Try to ensure that your conversation is not overheard!
- » Use your "Clue Cards" cards to jot down pertinent information you obtain about each character.

5

WHEN EVERYONE HAS EATEN, move on to the next house and/or part of the meal. Assign task two as follows:

- » My esteemed dining detectives, we must move on to our second task.
- » Find out about the challenges facing each player's community. Just make sure you don't ask open questions.
- » Try to think of a concise question that can be answered "yes" or "no"; for example, "Is the community poor?" "Does this challenge affect people's health?" "Does this problem affect women more than men?" If you get really stuck, ask the other player for a clue.
- » You may only ask questions of one person at a time.

6

- » Try to ensure that your conversation is not overheard!
- » Use your “Clue Cards” cards to jot down pertinent information you obtain about each character.

WHEN EVERYONE HAS EATEN, move on to the next house and/or part of the meal. Assign task three as follows:

- » The bloodhounds are on the scent. The clues are coming thick and fast. The solution to the conundrum is in sight. But, before we find out who has the best brain for a knotty riddle, one more task.
- » Find out what organizations are doing to help people in each of the players’ communities.
- » Just make sure you don’t ask open questions. Try to think of a concise question that can be answered “yes” or “no.” If you get stuck, ask for a clue.
- » You may only ask questions of one person at a time.
- » Try to ensure that your conversation is not overheard!
- » Use your “Clue Cards” cards to jot down pertinent information you obtain about each character.

7

ONCE THE MEAL IS OVER, ask the participants to present themselves to everybody else, according to the information on their character card. While they are doing this, encourage the others to score one point per correct piece of information they have noted about each character.

8

ONCE THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE FINISHED SCORING, vote to decide who the Best Detective award should go to. Then allocate the best costume and best character awards. Conclude by thanking the hosts and helpers.

9

SHARE A BRIEF OVERVIEW share a brief overview of the state of children’s health in the world using the key points noted below.

- » Most of them succumb to preventable causes, such as diarrhea, pneumonia, malnutrition, and malaria.
- » This is more than just a problem facing the developing world. It’s a “silent” emergency. And it is an enormous crime against children.
- » Through the Child Health Now campaign, humanitarian organizations encourage communities to raise their voices about their right to quality healthcare and press national

governments to meet their responsibilities to children, mothers, families, and communities throughout their country.

- » In September 2015, 193 countries committed to achieve the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals to end extreme poverty in the world by 2030. The Child Health Now campaign calls on the international community to fully dedicate itself to these goals.
- » You are invited to join this effort by urging elected officials to put child health at the top of their agendas. Let them know we believe that 16,000 child deaths every day are not acceptable, and ask them how they're going to help.

10

INITIATE A CONVERSATION about ways the participants can speak out and raise funds to address the issue of child mortality. From that discussion, determine next steps and an action plan.

11

TO CONCLUDE YOUR TIME TOGETHER, distribute a copy of the prayer card to each participant and pray the prayer together.

This resource is adapted from resources created by World Vision U.K.

RESOURCE

Character Cards

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Name: Yared Abebe (Male)

Nationality: Ethiopian

Personality traits: You are a born leader and used to getting your own way. You are charming and have a way of making people feel like they are having a good time. You are accustomed to public speaking and being in charge of crowds. You never take “no” for an answer.

Costume suggestions: A masterly moustache. A pair of colorful printed trousers and flip-flops. A chunky wooden necklace.

CHARACTER 1

Name: Hana Bekele (Female)

Nationality: Ethiopian

Personality traits: You are painfully shy and hate speaking in public or going out into crowded spaces. You are a homebody and love having a few of your closest friends around for a chat and a good meal.

Costume suggestions: Loose white dress with colored fabric pinned to the bottom.

Highly Personal Information

TASK 1 – Your family and background

You are single and have no children. You live with your sister, who is HIV-positive. Her husband died of AIDS-related illnesses. She has a 9-year-old daughter.

TASK 2 – The challenges facing your community

HIV and AIDS is the biggest challenge facing your community. It is killing both adults and children. Your sister is living with HIV and for a long time was worried she had passed the disease on to her daughter. Your sister is so ill that, like others in the community, she is unable to work to support her child.

TASK 3 – The ways your community is addressing these challenges

Humanitarian organizations are providing education and teaching children how to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS. They are working with community health workers to care for people who are HIV positive and helping to prevent mother-to-child transmission during pregnancy, birth, and afterward.

RESOURCE

Character Cards (continued)

CHARACTER 2

Name: Gebre Giorgis (M)

Nationality: Ethiopian

Personality traits: Your happy-go-lucky and laid-back personality belies the fact that you are extremely hardworking and have ambitions to improve your life.

Costume suggestions: A dark sheet wrapped like a toga, over trousers.

Highly Personal Information

TASK 1 – Your family and background

You are 27, married, and the father of twin baby girls, aged 9 months. Your wife is 24 years old.

TASK 2 – The challenges facing your community

Malnutrition affects everyone in your community but children most of all. Severe droughts over the last couple of years have made this worse. Young babies like yours are most vulnerable to the consequences of malnutrition. Malnutrition puts children at risk of illness and disease and leaves them less able to recover from illness.

TASK 3 – The ways your community is addressing these challenges

Humanitarian organizations are providing emergency food supplies. Staff are also teaching people how to make oral rehydration salts. These help to prevent life-threatening dehydration when a child has diarrhea. Families are paid to make the salts which can be distributed to other families and provide treatment and income at the same time.

CHARACTER 3

Name: Adrine Petrosian (F)

Nationality: Armenian

Personality traits: You are extremely flamboyant and very carefree. You like to be outdoors as much as possible and didn't do very well in school because you felt too cooped up.

Costume suggestions: A tasseled shawl. A white frilly apron.

Highly Personal Information

TASK 1 – Your family and background

You are 40 years old. You are married and have six children—four girls and two boys.

TASK 2 – The challenges facing your community

Most of the neighboring families are poor. Jobs are scarce and healthcare is limited. Like other mothers, you have difficulty feeding your children. Your family survives on the food that can be grown on a small plot of land, but when there is no rainfall the crops are damaged and you risk starvation.

TASK 3 – The ways your community is addressing these challenges

Humanitarian organizations are helping people to gain skills. They are teaching women about better nutrition. They are providing new kinds of crops. Most importantly, they are working with people in the community to set up simple drip irrigation systems. These protect crops from drought and help to provide a more reliable supply of food.

RESOURCE

Character Cards (continued)

CHARACTER 4

Name: Eskin Aroyan (M)

Nationality: Armenian

Personality traits: You are diligent and hardworking. You are gentle and a good listener but you also have a mischievous sense of humor.

Costume suggestions: Loose trousers and a colored waistcoat and turban.

Highly Personal Information

TASK 1 – Your family and background

You are 40 years old. You are married. You have two girls and one boy. You are a teacher.

TASK 2 – The challenges facing your community

Your community is poor. There are high levels of malnutrition. It is cold in winter. Many schools and homes have no heating. The cold, combined with widespread malnutrition, often result in children developing pneumonia.

TASK 3 – The ways your community is addressing these challenges

Members of the community are paid by humanitarian organizations to install heating systems. Children can find a warm place to learn even in the winter. School feeding programs are helping malnourished children.

CHARACTER 5

Name: Nyasha Mwanza (F)

Nationality: Zimbabwean

Personality traits: You are friendly and helpful but also headstrong. You are also extremely outgoing and can make conversation about anything.

Costume suggestions: A colorful skirt and blouse. A water bucket to carry on your head.

Highly Personal Information

TASK 1 – Your family and background

You are 18 and unmarried. You live with your mother, father, and two younger brothers.

TASK 2 – The challenges facing your community

Health is a big challenge. Most of the members of your community are too poor to buy mosquito nets. Mosquitoes plague people here, and malaria is a big child-killer. Young children are the most vulnerable. Both of your brothers have had malaria, and you suffered from it yourself as a child.

TASK 3 – The ways your community is addressing these challenges

Children and parents are learning about the dangers of malaria and how to recognize the first signs of the illness. Volunteers in the community identify children with malaria, so that they can be prioritized for treatment. Mosquito nets, treated with insecticide, are distributed. The nets stop people from being bitten while they sleep.

RESOURCE

Character Cards (continued)

CHARACTER 6

Name: Ronald Chuma (M)

Nationality: Zimbabwean

Personality traits: You are a bundle of energy. You love adventure and like to try things that people say you won't be able to master, such as new sports and skills. You get bored very easily.

Costume suggestions: Loose colored trousers and caftan.

Highly Personal Information

TASK 1 – Your family and background

You are 26 and engaged to be married. You live with your grandmother and your three younger brothers.

TASK 2 – The challenges facing your community

There are many children in your community whose parents have died of HIV and AIDS, including your own brothers. These children often suffer from poor access to healthcare and education. This severely impacts their life chances. Elderly people are left with the burden of caring for relatives. Many of the younger people with HIV and AIDS become too weak to work.

TASK 3 – The ways your community is addressing these challenges

Children and adults are learning how to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS. Groups of community volunteers are being trained to set up support groups and look after orphans and vulnerable children. Other support groups provide healthcare and counseling for people with HIV and AIDS.

RESOURCE

Character Cards (continued)

CHARACTER 7

Name: Chanlina Nimol (F)

Nationality: Cambodian

Personality traits: You are very wise and the person that your friends always turn to for advice. You are a calm and contemplative person and would rather listen than talk.

Costume suggestions: A printed sarong tied around the neck to make a dress.

Highly Personal Information

TASK 1 – Your family and background

You are 59 and a grandmother. Your husband is dead. You live with your daughter and her six children.

TASK 2 – The challenges facing your community

You live in a very poor slum town. Most of the people that live here have migrated from the countryside. The most common problems are malnutrition and pneumonia. People scavenge on garbage piles to find food and items to sell. They burn the rubbish as fuel.

TASK 3 – The ways your community is addressing these challenges

Children and adults are learning about the common causes of the respiratory illnesses that lead to pneumonia. Staff teach people how to recognize the danger signs and to identify children who need urgent treatment. Humanitarian organizations are conducting health education campaigns and helping people to plant household gardens to improve nutrition.

CHARACTER 8

Name: Meaker Preap (M)

Nationality: Cambodian

Personality traits: You are easy to get along with and very down-to-earth. You speak your mind and can be very frank. You have a highly developed sense of responsibility.

Costume suggestions: A short sarong, worn over trousers, T-shirt, and flip flops.

Highly Personal Information

TASK 1 – Your family and background

You are 16 years old. You are a subsistence farmer. You live with your mother and a younger sister. Your father died when you were 14. You are now the family's breadwinner.

TASK 2 – The challenges facing your community

Your community is located at the edge of a major river. The community is poor, so some people in the community are dependent on the river for their food and water. However, the river is polluted with industrial, animal, and human waste. Many children die from diarrhea as a result of the unsafe water.

TASK 3 – The ways your community is addressing these challenges

The community is learning about better hygiene and sanitation and ways to prevent the spread of disease. Staff and community members are digging a well that can be covered and kept free from contamination. Families are learning skills like tailoring, so that they can generate incomes. With this additional money they buy food to supplement their diet and are no longer solely dependent on fishing in the river.

RESOURCE

Character Cards

(continued)

CHARACTER 9

Name: Namazzi Otunno (F)

Nationality: Ugandan

Personality traits: You are slow-talking and quick-thinking. You are very academic and interested in learning. You are family-centered and spend as much time as you can with the people you love.

Costume suggestions: Caftan over skirt, turban.

Highly Personal Information

TASK 1 – Your family and background

You are 31 years old. You are a married housewife with two sons. One of your boys is 7 and the other is 18 months old.

TASK 2 – The challenges facing your community

People are poor. Healthcare is limited. Like other mothers in your community, you had difficult pregnancies because you couldn't get enough to eat and were malnourished. You gave birth to both children at home. One of your boys nearly died because of childbirth complications. You had no medical help.

TASK 3 – The ways your community is addressing these challenges

Humanitarian organizations are helping people to gain skills. They are teaching women about better nutrition. They are training local volunteers to monitor the health of pregnant women, new mothers, and babies. They are providing seeds and tools so that people can grow and sell fresh food.

CHARACTER 10

Name: Dembe Kobel (M)

Nationality: Ugandan

Personality traits: You are a social activist. You are interested in human rights and support many good causes. You spend lots of your free time lobbying or volunteering.

Costume suggestions: Caftan over trousers, beanie hat, and beads.

Highly Personal Information

TASK 1 – Your family and background

You are 35 years old and a qualified doctor. You are single and live alone. Your family all died from AIDS-related illnesses.

TASK 2 – The challenges facing your community

Your community is very poor. The hospital is a day's walk away. Measles, which most children in high-income countries are vaccinated against, kills many in your community. Some are already severely malnourished and suffering from diarrhea or pneumonia.

TASK 3 – The ways your community is addressing these challenges

You are working with a humanitarian organization and some local volunteers to run a drop-in-clinic. You are making sure that all of the children in your community are vaccinated against easily preventable illnesses, like measles. You also run classes for first-time mothers. Mothers learn to spot the first signs of measles and to keep their children away from others while the illness is contagious. They in turn teach other women what they have learned.

RESOURCE

Clue Cards

CHARACTER'S NAME:

PERSONALITY TRAITS:

TASK 1

» CLUE: use “yes” and “no” questions to find out things like age, family/marital status, who the character lives with, etc.

TASK 2

» CLUE: use “yes” and “no” questions, whenever possible, to find out things like the economic status of the community and who has been most affected by the challenges.

» CLUE: use “yes” and “no” questions to find out whether challenges in the community are related to child mortality, health, nutrition, poor provision of services like hospitals, or diseases like HIV and AIDS, etc.

TASK 3

» CLUE: use “yes” and “no” questions to find out if projects involve improving nutrition, sanitation, or disease prevention.

» CLUE: use “yes” and “no” questions, wherever possible, to find out if projects involve educating children and adults, enhancing people’s skills, providing new services, or setting up community groups.

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RESOURCE

Child Health Prayer Card #2

O Lord, give us faith.
Let us not be hindered by doubt or overwhelmed by statistics.
Let the faces of the world's children linger in our minds
And be present in our hearts.
Make us always grateful for the blessings you've given us,
And light the way for us to share them with others.
Help us walk with you as you break the chains of poverty,
And bring a fuller life to all of your children.
Amen.

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