



*2009 Annual Convening  
of Service-Learning Leaders*  
*Maryland State Department of Education*  
**Service-Learning Unit**

**Free Rice**  
**Harford County Public Schools**

**Primary Subject:** English

**Grade Level:** 9-1

**Additional Subject Area Connections:**

Art, Chemistry, Math, Geography, Foreign Language

**Unit Title:** Free Rice

**Type(s) of Service:** Indirect

**Unit Description:**

Students are challenged to help the UN's World Hunger Programme by earning grains of rice on FreeRice.com, a website that donates rice for correctly answered questions related to subjects such as grammar, language, and geography.

**Potential Service-Learning Action Experiences:**

- Earning grains of rice to feed the hungry around the world
- Food drive to help more locally



**Maryland Curriculum Standards Met**

**English/Language Arts 9-12**

3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.3; 3.2.5; 4.1.1; 4.1.2

# Alignment with Maryland's Best Practices of Service-Learning: *Free Rice*

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## 1. **Meet a recognized community need**

The UN World Food Programme provides food to hungry people all over the world. The WFP's five objectives:

- Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies
- Prepare for emergencies
- Restore and rebuild lives after emergencies
- Reduce chronic hunger and malnutrition everywhere
- Strengthen the capacity of countries to reduce hunger

## 2. **Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning**

FreeRice.com asks trivia questions related to many school-related subjects, including grammar and vocabulary. Students earned grains of rice while applying basic language arts, math, foreign language, geography, art, and chemistry knowledge and skills.

## 3. **Reflect throughout the service-learning experience**

Students reflected throughout the project and recorded their responses using the wiki (<http://ehsfreerice.pbworks.com/w/page/9539143/FrontPage>). Each student had his or her own wiki-page under his or her specific class and was provided specific reflection questions to answer.

## 4. **Develop student responsibility (Students have opportunities to make decisions about the service-learning project.)**

Students were responsible for earning a certain amount of grains of rice each month as well as completing the reflection questions on the wiki space.

## 5. **Establish community partnerships**

The project is featured on the UN's World Hunger Programme website (<http://www.wfp.org/students-and-teachers/blog/schools-action-edgewood-high-school>).

## 6. **Plan ahead for service-learning**

Each class determined how much rice they would earn each month. Teachers also set deadlines for completion of the project.

## 7. **Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service**

To kick off the project, students read and researched hunger and its causes. They also learned how to use a wiki space, which would be used for reflection on the project.



Harford County Public Schools



*\*This material is based upon a template for service-learning experiences created by the Maryland State Department of Education. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Maryland State Department of Education or constitute an endorsement.*