

The Peanut Butter Sandwich Dilemma

Adapted from Peace Begins With You and Me

This exercise will help girls experience the difficulties encountered by countries in providing food and revenue for their people with the resources at hand. While trading with other countries, the players learn how easy it can be to fall into conflict with others competing in the world market. The idea is for girls to realize the challenge for countries - rich and poor, large and small - to maintain both international and national peace, while also serving the immediate needs of their people.

Each of eight patrols or groups represents a country. Smaller units can assign as few as two girls to a country. Within each country, girls are asked to elect or appoint a leader, naming her President, Queen, Prime Minister or even Dictator, as they see fit. They then choose a decision-making process to use during the course of the game, from majority rule to absolute dictatorship. Finally, each country chooses a name. (In some cases, even deciding on a ruler(s), a type of government and a name can prove a challenge

to domestic peace! See how long it takes your girls to make these decisions.)

Each country is then given a sheet of poster board folded like a place card so it stands on its own. On one side, are written the size, population and financial status of their country. (The cards are given out randomly.) They add the name of their country. On the other side, for their information only, is a list of their resources and what they need to provide for their population.

Resources

To represent resources use the ingredients for a peanut butter and jam sandwich lunch, including an apple.

The sandwich consists of:

one peanut butter

one jam

one butter

one knife

one napkin

one plate

two bread slices

Apples are extras, but may be "needed to survive".

These resources can be real or represented by small pieces of construction

paper in appropriate colors and shapes.

When resources are traded between countries, the ingredients or papers help

keep track of the gains and losses.
The aim of the game is to use the resources available in your country to provide, through trade on the world market, what your country needs to survive while maintaining peace in the world.

Allergy Alert: Guiders should ask if any of their girls are allergic to peanuts, before doing this activity. If peanut allergy is a problem, substitute something for peanut butter, or use paper cutouts to represent the ingredients for a peanut butter and jam sandwich.

Total World Resources

13 peanut butter 13 napkins
10 knives 10 jam
28 bread slices 10 butter
12 apples 10 plates

Resources Distributed Among Countries

Country #1: a large, wealthy country with a large population; labor costs are high.

Resources Available: Needed to Survive:
12 bread 2 peanut butter sandwiches
2 knives 6 apples
6 plates
2 apples

Country # 2: a large, wealthy country with a large population; labor costs are low.

Resources Available: Needed to Survive:

5 knives 2 peanut butter sandwiches

5 jam 2 apples

7 napkins

5 butter

Country # 3: a small country, poor, with low labor costs.

Resources Available: Needed to Survive:

2 jam 1 peanut butter sandwich

2 butter

3 napkins

Country # 4: a medium sized country with adequate resources to be self-sufficient.

Resources Available: Needed to Survive:

6 bread 1 peanut butter sandwich

3 knives 1 apple

3 plates

Country # 5: a medium sized country with an evenly distributed population; plenty of resources, but not a lot in excess of need.

Resources Available: Needed to Survive:
3 apples 1 peanut butter sandwich
3 jam 1 apple
3 butter

Country # 6: a fair-sized country with a large population working for reasonable wages; some good natural resources.

Resources Available: Needed to Survive:
3 peanut butter 1 peanut butter sandwiches
3 napkins 1 apple
6 bread

Country # 7: a small poor country, heavily populated, lots of cheap labor.

Resources Available: Needed to Survive:
4 bread 1 peanut butter sandwich
1 plate 3 apples

Country # 8: very large and very poor, small population and few developed resources.

Resources Available: Needed to Survive:
10 peanut butter 2 peanut butter sandwiches
1 apple

Each country also has the option to

trade or pick a "Luck of the Draw " card. These cards will either offer a life-saving miracle or inflict a major disaster.

Note: Although world resources are limited, have available some extra resources to cover the bonuses granted in good "Luck of the Draw" cards.

This game takes at least an hour to set up, explain and play. It is challenging at both Guide and Pathfinder levels. Guiders will find it interesting to see how differently each group makes its decisions, accepts failures and adjusts to success. Some will bicker; some will get cocky with success; some will take risks and lose everything. Others drive such hard bargains, no one will trade with them. All in all, this is a terrific (and fun) way for girls to learn a little about world politics and the economics of keeping the PEACE!

Luck of the Draw Cards:

Write (or photocopy, cut and paste) these on a square of bristol board.

1 You've had a terrific harvest. Double your largest resource.

2 Your country has been hit by an earthquake. Your largest resource has

been
wiped out

3 You've made peace with an old enemy.
Add 3 units of jam to your country's
supply.

4 Disaster strikes! Spring flooding cuts
your peanut butter harvest in half.

5 Your country develops a new fertilizer
that doubles your apple exports.
Congratulations!

6 Early frost hits the strawberry fields
and wipes out everything. Cancel
your jam exports.

7 The wheat crop is twice what you
expected! Double your bread supplies.

8 Drought hits. The cows stop giving
milk. Your butter supply dries up
completely.

9 Your new factory turns out plates in
half the time. Double your plate
supply.

10 Torrential winds and rains shut down
all production. Your knife supply is
wiped out altogether.

11 A tornado wipes out your only plate
factory. Hand in all your plates.

12 A new technique lets you produce knives at twice the speed. Double your knife supply.

13 Unused land has proved to be perfect for peanuts. Your peanut butter supply triples.

14 An enemy has bombed your capital city. Your second largest resource has been wiped out.

15 JACKPOT!
Fortune smiles. Double all your resources.

16 JACKPOT!
Fortune smiles. Double all your resources.

17 Fire wipes out two of your largest factories. Your napkin and bread supplies are gone.

18 You can make "bitter butter better". You bought big batches of bitter butter and made it better. Double your butter supplies.

19 Hailstorms have wiped out your apple crop. All your apple supplies are gone.

20 A neighboring country shares surplus napkins with you. Add three to your napkin supply.

[Go to Scouting Web Home](#)
[Page](#)