This activity is designed for years 5 and 6, but might suit higher years as well. It uses the idea of estimating percentages to make comparisons, so some awareness of percentage is a pre-requisite.

**What do they eat in China... Italy... Ecuador?**

The activity begins with three photos taken by Peter Menzel. Each is of a typical family from that country with their food for one week. China and Italy were chosen because their cuisines are common take-away foods in Australia, and there are many families from those countries in Australia. There are no take-away foods in these pictures.

Ecuador was chosen because it provides contrast, both in family size (large) and in types of foods (mostly home-grown).

Display each of the three photos in turn. You could use the projector or have paper copies for groups of students. The countries are China, Italy and Ecuador.

Have a world map available to locate the three countries.

Lead a discussion on what the students notice. Comparisons with their own lives will likely emerge.

You can download the *What do they eat in...? Student worksheet.*

**What foods are most common in different countries? How are they the same, and how are they different?**

Ask students to identify the types of food that they see. The foods can be broadly grouped into grains; dairy; meat, fish and eggs; fruit and vegetables; fast food; drinks.

Students can rank the food types first and then estimate a percentage for each of the categories. They can then compare to the food of their own families.

**How much money do people have to spend on food in different countries?**

This is extended with data on a spreadsheet which has a graph showing family size, and total amount spent.

It also shows how much is actually spent on each food type, using US$ comparisons. (This might need to be explained, and could lead to a discussion of currencies.)

Students can use the *Food spreadsheet* to find the amount of money (and the relative percentages) spent on different food groups for these three countries plus Australia.
Extension

World Vision Australia produce a number of case-study reports or explanation statements designed for use in schools. Categories are Global issues (6 each with many subcategories), two-page country profiles, games and activities.

Oxfam was known in Australia as ‘Community Aid Abroad’. They work in many countries. Select ‘Development’ and choose a country.

The class may wish to explore further.

There are more families and more information in the book Hungry Planet: What the World Eats by Peter Menzel and Faith D’Aluisio (www.menzelphoto.com/books/hp.php).

World Vision (www.worldvision.com.au/learn/schoolResources) and Oxfam (www.oxfam.org/en/policy) produce school resources that may be of interest.