



Comparing **food systems** over time



MAKE IT PERSONAL

What are two ways you interact most with the food system?



EXPLORE AND CREATE

Food Systems, Past and Present

Food systems have always existed. However, people's activities, practices and processes associated with each step in the system have changed over time.

Use **two Cycle Diagrams** to explore some differences between a food system in the past and the food system today.



- Describe, sketch and/or cut and paste examples that illustrate activities and practices that apply to each stage of the food system.
- Include at least one example in each stage of your two food system diagrams.

Then, respond to the questions that follow. Think about all the steps in the food system when you respond.



Use **HOW HAVE FOOD SYSTEMS CHANGED OVER TIME?** for these learning tasks.

Use the Learning Source and the information for this guiding question in the **agriculture HISTORIES** carousel on www.projectagriculture.ca. Check out these weblinks for additional information.

The Alberta government provides a summary of population statistics. Some of these statistics describe population changes over time. Go to Population Statistics at www.alberta.ca/population-statistics.aspx and look for examples of changes in rural and urban communities. Find the infographic that predicts future changes in Alberta's population on this webpage.

Find a collection of agricultural artifacts from the past on the Ingenium Canada's Collection Highlights website, filtered for the Canadian Agriculture and Food Museum at <https://ingeniumcanada.org/agriculture/collection-research/collection-highlights>. Use these artifacts to help you get a picture of the differences between farming and food production in the past and farming and food today.

How do you think changes in the food system have affected the type or variety of food available today? Why do you think this?

How could changes in the food system affect the environment? List two examples that describe how the food system today is more beneficial to the environment. Then, list two examples that describe how the food system today has resulted in challenges to the environment.

Benefits	Challenges



INVESTIGATE

Food and Farming Challenges

Consider the food and farming challenges identified in the infographic below. This infographic describes areas of concern related to Canada's food system and comes from research conducted by the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity in 2019. People who participated in this CCFI survey were asked to rate their level of concern on these issues.

The numbers in the infographic show the percentage of people who said that they strongly agreed that the issue was an area of concern.

The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity identified some similar areas of concern in their 2021 study. The top three "life" issues identified by Canadians were also associated with the food system. They included the rising cost of food, keeping healthy food affordable and climate change.

MORE CANADIAN FOOD SYSTEM CONCERNS

50%



Climate change

49%



Food safety

43%



Humane treatment of farm animals

39%



Having enough food to feed Canada

23%



Having enough food to feed people outside Canada

How do you and your community rate issues such as those identified by the CCFI in 2019 and 2021? Select at least **three** of these issues. Create a survey that measures the level of concern for each of these issues. Use a five-point scale, such as:

- 1. Strongly concerned
- 2. Somewhat concerned
- 3. Not sure
- 4. A bit concerned
- 5. Not that concerned

Collect surveys from three or four people. Combine your survey results with those of your classmates.

As a small group or class, decide how you will represent your survey results. A graph? An infographic? A chart? Use your survey results to discuss the following questions.

Which issues were of **most** concern in your community? Why do you think these issues are important to people in your community?

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Which issues were of **least** concern in your community? Why do you think these issues are not as important to people in your community?

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Based on the results of your survey, what are two changes you would like to make to the food system? Why would you make these changes? Revisit the food system image to help you think about your recommendations.

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As a group, you may decide to share your results and conclusions with the people who participated in your survey.



EXPLORE

Predicting Change

What predictions would you make about changes in the food system in the future?

In what ways do you think food system challenges and concerns were different for people living in Canada in the 1800s? Describe **two** examples.

How do you think lessons from the past and concerns in the present might affect the direction that the food system takes now and in the future?
