

Name _____

Hunger's Grip: Understanding the Causes and Consequences of Food Insecurity

Short Answer Key

1. Some causes of food insecurity mentioned in the passage include poverty, unemployment, high food costs, and lack of access to grocery stores or fresh produce.
2. Food insecurity can lead to health problems like malnutrition, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. For example, inadequate access to nutritious food can result in malnutrition in children, while limited resources may lead to the consumption of cheaper, less healthy food options.
3. Food insecurity can hinder a child's ability to learn and lead to lower academic achievement. It occurs because hunger and malnutrition can affect cognitive development and concentration, making it more challenging for children to succeed in school.
4. One government food assistance program is SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), which provides eligible individuals and families with financial assistance to purchase food, thereby helping to alleviate food insecurity.
5. Community initiatives can help combat food insecurity by providing access to nutritious food and support. An example of such an initiative is community gardens, where local residents grow fresh produce that can be shared with those in need, improving food access in the community.

