

G8 help for poorer countries

At the G8 summit – the yearly meeting of the world’s eight richest countries – world leaders have decided to give more assistance to poorer countries in the form of food aid.

The summit was held in Italy this year, and included leaders from The United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Japan.

The leaders agreed to give \$20 billion dollars to countries in Africa to help them with their food problems. This amount of money was higher than some experts had predicted, so it was considered to be good news for poorer countries with many hungry people.

Importantly, the money will not just go toward buying more food to help these countries now. The idea is to use the money to find better ways to help these countries grow more food for their people in the future as well.

Global warming was also a hot topic at the summit, with world leaders agreeing that they needed to do more to prevent it. They have set targets to cut how much greenhouse gas countries produce.

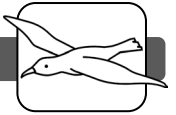
However, many experts say the target cuts are still too low, and the G8 countries have not explained just how exactly they can make the reductions happen. Some people are also worried that developing countries like China and India are not doing enough to cut their greenhouse gas emissions.



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www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090716.html





A. Reading Skills

Word Power – Choose 12 words you don't know (or don't know well) from the article. Write them in the list below. Then use a dictionary and write down what the words mean.

1. ⇒
2. ⇒
3. ⇒
4. ⇒
5. ⇒
6. ⇒

7. ⇒
8. ⇒
9. ⇒
10. ⇒
11. ⇒
12. ⇒

Reading Questions

❶ This article is mainly about...

- A. Food help for Asian countries
- B. The 2009 G8 summit decisions
- C. Global warming issues
- D. How to help China and India

❷ Which country below is NOT a member of the G8?

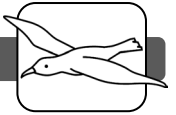
- A. Italy
- B. The United Kingdom
- C. Canada
- D. The United Emirates

❸ How much money will the G8 give for food aid?

❹ How will the money be used?

❺ Why are some people critical of the global warming decisions?





B. News Extra: What is the G8?



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Word help for note-taking

powerful | economies | America
 Britain | France | Germany | Italy
 Canada | Russia | Japan | summit
 solutions | presidency | host | equal
 influence | issues | developing
 reconstructing | terrorism | excluding
 Latin | globalism | capitalism | protest

True or False?

- ① The G in "G8" stands for "Global". T / F
- ② The United States always holds the presidency of the G8. T / F
- ③ The United States is the strongest member of the G8. T / F
- ④ One issue is discussed at each G8 summit. T / F
- ⑤ Globalism is not popular with everyone in the world. T / F

Listen and take notes:

G8 – meaning and membership...

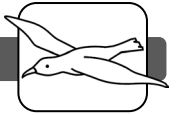
The G8 summit...

G8 and United States

What is talked about at the G8 summits...

Problems/people against the G8...





C. Talk Time!

Person A

- ⇒ **So the proposal is for \$15 billion?**
- B. Yes, but I don't think it is enough. That will help to buy food for now, but we need to send more than that.
- ⇒ **Ah – to help these countries grow more food in the future?**
- B. Yes, exactly.
- ⇒ **I'm not sure the other leaders here will agree - \$15 billion is already a lot!**
- B. Think of it as a good investment. Spending more now could mean we don't need to give as much next time.
- ⇒ **Yes, I see. So how much more, then?**
- B. How about \$5 billion? Reasonable?

Person B

- ⇒ So the proposal is for \$15 billion?
- ⇒ **Yes, but I don't think it is enough. That will help to buy food for now, but we need to send more than that.**
- ⇒ Ah – to help these countries grow more food in the future?
- ⇒ **Yes, exactly.**
- ⇒ I'm not sure the other leaders here will agree - \$15 billion is already a lot!
- ⇒ **Think of it as a good investment. Spending more now could mean we don't need to give as much next time.**
- ⇒ Yes, I see. So how much more, then?
- ⇒ **How about \$5 billion? Reasonable?**

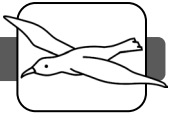
Ask the class!

- ❶ Who might we be?
⇒ *Country leaders at the G8 summit.*
- ❸ What do we need more money for?
⇒ *To help grow food in the future.*
- ❺ Why does he/she think it is a good idea?
⇒ *Good investment, give less later.*
- ❿ How much will we give in total?
⇒ *Maybe \$20 billion.*

Ask the class!

- ❷ Do I think \$15 billion is enough?
⇒ *No.*
- ❹ What is he/she worried about?
⇒ *Other leaders won't agree/too much.*
- ❻ How much more money do I suggest?
⇒ *\$5 billion.*
- ⓸ Why did I say "reasonable"?
⇒ *Is it okay? Is it fair?*

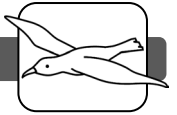




D. Class Discussion

Questions	1 Is your home country a member of the G8?	2 What would YOU like the G8 to talk about at the next summit (2010)?	3 Do you think the G8 is a good idea? Why or why not?
Friend 1			
Friend 2			
Friend 3			
Friend 4			





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Teacher's Notes

For ideas on how to apply various activities with the different lesson stages, please visit:

http://www.englishraven.com/wnk_teachers.html

Answer Keys:

A. Reading Skills

① B ② D ③ \$20 billion ④ To help now and in the future (find better ways to grow food) ⑤ The target cuts are too low, no explanation about how, China and India.

B. News Extra: What is the G8?

Listening script:

The G8 stands for "Group of Eight", and is an important meeting of the countries in the world with the most powerful economies. For quite some time now, these eight countries have been America, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Russia and Japan.

The leaders of these countries get together once a year in a special meeting called a summit. The idea of this meeting is to raise, talk about, and propose solutions for the most important problems in the world at that time. Each year, a different country holds the G8 presidency, and it is that country which hosts the summit.

Technically, all the members of the G8 are equal. However, being the richest and most powerful country, the United States tends to have more influence than other countries.



Link to archive version of news page:

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The G8 talk about all sorts of important issues at their summits. Some recent examples include global warming, help for developing countries, reconstructing Iraq, and how to deal with international terrorism.

Some people don't actually like the idea of the G8. They say it is all about the richest countries just looking after themselves, not considering other big countries like China or India, and excluding members from Africa and Latin America. Some also say that globalism is all about the spread of western capitalism to the rest of the world, and not fair to smaller countries. These people often set up spectacular protests at the G8 summits each year.

True or False?

① F ② F ③ T ④ F ⑤ T

