

# Playing with Decimals

*A lesson on the challenges of living on less than \$2 per day*

Age Range: Grades 4-6

Subject: Math

Adapted from "Fighting Hunger the Rights Way" - [CBU Children's Rights Centre](#)

## Overview

*Addition & subtraction of decimals, critical thinking*

Students will practice addition and subtraction of decimals while considering the small domestic budgets of people in developing countries.

## Aims & Objectives

- To allow students to demonstrate an understanding of addition and subtraction of decimals (limited to hundredths)
- To raise awareness of the differences between the developed and the developing worlds

## Preparation

- Make copies of the Playing with Decimals activity sheet

## Instructions

1. Pass out activity sheets. Explain to the class that more than half of the population of the world lives on less than \$2 per day and sometimes these people cannot afford such things as food for themselves or their children.
2. Allow students to begin working on the activity sheet.
3. Once they have completed the activity sheet, go over the answers and discuss their thoughts and feelings.

## Answer Key

1. Yes.  $\$5.00 - \$4.43 = \$0.57$
2. No.  $\$0.57 < \$0.75$
3. No.  $\$4.43 > \$4.00$
4. No. He did not have enough money to buy all the supplies he needed.
5.  $\$0.57$
6. Villager 1 can, but not Villager 2



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Many people in developing countries live on less than \$2 a day. These people have to budget their money very carefully in order to meet their basic requirements. Practice your budgeting skills by completing the following questions:

1. A villager has earned \$5.00 working in the cornfield this week. She must buy supplies to ensure her family is safe from hunger. The things she needs and the prices are listed below. Does she have enough money?

Bus fare to market - \$0.12

Bag of rice - \$0.23

Seeds - \$0.98

Milk - \$0.34

Tools - \$1.16

Medicine - \$1.48

Bus fare home - \$0.12

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. If it costs \$0.75 to send one child to school, does she have enough money to send her daughter to school after buying the supplies in question 1?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Another villager has made \$4.00 at his job this week. He must buy the same supplies. Does he have enough money to buy these items?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Can he send his son to school after buying supplies?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. The UN World Food Programme has begun food assistance in this village. All the money each villager spends on food (rice and milk) will not be needed this week. How much money will each of the two villagers save?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Can either of the villagers afford to send their children to school now?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

7. In groups, discuss how a budget can impact children. Think of ways that you could help these villagers afford their basic necessities and send their children to school.

