

## Reflection Questions:

- How did Norman Borlaug's childhood and early adult years impact his ambition and desire to secure a food supply?

His family immigrated to the United States from Norway due to the potato famine. He was raised a very poor farm boy in Iowa. He wanted a better life and was sensitive to the plight of hunger.

- On the streets of Minneapolis in the 1930s, Norman saw hunger "...turn men into beasts." How does a social issue like hunger impact politics?

When people are hungry, they are more likely to be hostile. Social unrest leads to conflicts that often involve the government and politics. Many conflicts arise from a lack of resources (food).

- What historical events set the stage for the Green Revolution?

World War II, Pearl Harbor, the Cold War and the Great Depression took place in this time frame.

- Why was the United States concerned with the political unrest in Mexico and India?

Mexico shares a border with America. Social unrest (largely due to poverty) in Mexico could leave the United States at risk as well. Involvement in India was at the beginning of the Cold War which was fighting against communism with the Soviet Union. Hunger and starvation had the potential to tip India towards the Soviet Union and communism. (Quote from film, "No one becomes a communist on a full belly.")

- Why didn't some of the early wheat trials in India produce the wheat yield Borlaug intended? Why should or shouldn't a culture change their traditional farming practices to something new?

In the very first trials of Borlaug's high-yield wheat, farmers who used local traditional farming practices (without additional fertilizer and water inputs) did not get the high wheat yields that were possible.

Reflections will vary regarding changing traditional farming practices.

- Why was this era named the "Green Revolution?"

Norman Borlaug's wheat was only one example of new agricultural technology that dramatically boosted crop production and addressed hunger and famine conditions throughout the world.

# The Green Revolution Decision Matrix

Were Norman Borlaug's efforts successful? Why or why not?

Criteria	Economic	Social	Political	Environmental
Weight	1 2 3 4 (Circle one)	1 2 3 4 (Circle one)	1 2 3 4 (Circle one)	1 2 3 4 (Circle one)
Positive Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmers who could implement new strategies (fertilizer and adequate water) to grow wheat could harvest (and sell) a lot of wheat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borlaug's new wheat varieties resisted stem rust and produced significantly more wheat than previous varieties providing food to a growing and hungry population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was believed that eliminating hunger would improve the social and political welfare of people.</li> <li>In time, (after the United States stopped sending food) the government in India was willing to try the new high-yield farming practices.</li> </ul>	
Challenges & Negative Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some poor farmers couldn't afford the fertilizer necessary to properly grow the new varieties of plants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borlaug's new wheat promised higher yields but required farming practices that were new and different from cultural traditions of people in Southeast Asia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In India, the government needed to guarantee a minimum price to farmers so they could afford the new practices.</li> <li>The government needed to 'buy in' and use new farming practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borlaug's new wheat varieties required more water and fertilizer to produce heavy yields.</li> </ul>