

Name _____

Green Revolution Decision Matrix

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

The word "revolution" is used to describe the complete transformation of a society or culture. The Green Revolution occurred between 1950 and the late 1960s when the use of technologies such as fertilizers, pesticides, and high-yield crop varieties boosted crop production dramatically. A full evaluation of the Green Revolution requires looking at the economic, social, political, and environmental impacts of this era.

Economic

- Is food affordable for consumers?
- Can farmers be profitable?
- Can farmers afford the technologies or inputs required to grow food?



Social

- Is there a safe, healthy, and plentiful food supply?
- Are people hungry or malnourished?
- Do the farming practices fall within the traditions of the culture or people?



Political

- Is there an increase or decrease in political unrest or threats to national security?
- Are commodity subsidies necessary to guarantee a minimum price for farmers?



Environmental

- Are there enough natural resources (water and soil nutrients)?
- Does erosion or the pollution of natural resources increase or decrease?



Reflection Questions:

- How did Norman Borlaug's childhood and early adult years impact his ambition and desire to secure a food supply?
- On the streets of Minneapolis in the 1930s, Norman saw hunger "...turn men into beasts." How does a social issue like hunger impact politics?
- What historical events set the stage for the Green Revolution?
- Why was the United States concerned with the political unrest in Mexico and India?
- Why didn't some of the 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?
- Why was this era named the "Green Revolution?"

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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				
Challenges & Negative Impacts				