**MEAT RAP**

*Based on work by Teva educators David Blank and Simone Lindenbaum*

**Learning objective**: To contrast the environmental impact of eating meat, specifically beef, with vegetarianism

**Materials**: table (optional)

**Estimated length:** 10 minutes – 30 minutes depending on the length of the discussion.

**Instructions:** This activity can either be run with counselors presenting to campers in the dining hall, or just with one group of campers. Three counselors sit down at a table or on the ground. One of the counselor is Chanie, a kid, who is hungry, and her parents (one VEG, one MEAT) have a short argument about whether or not to have meat for dinner. After the debate, have a conversation with kids about which side they agree with, or if they take a different position.

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**CHANIE:** Mommy, Daddy,I’m so hungry – what’s for dinner?

**VEG:** Listen up honey just sit right down

cause I’m gonna spit some rhymes that might turn you around

I know eating meat’s delicious; I don’t find that strange,

but it’s leading to a *little* thing called climate change

**MEAT:**yeah, I’ve heard of climate change, and I’m not really impressed

what’s it have to do with burgers? Take a chill pill, you’re a mess

I’m not about to adopt all of your "eco-stress"

**VEG:**Lemme try to break this down for you if you think you’re so smart

cows release a lot of methane every time they fart,

methane is a greenhouse gas, which traps sunlight energy

it’s been causin’ the earth's temperature to rise up by degrees

**MEAT:**  I mean I guess I never knew that and it really is a shame

but what's my contribution, am I really all to blame?

maybe you’re right, and meat production causes global warming

but just one burger- is it really worth mourning?

I’m sick of vegetarians and I’m not conforming!

If I stop eating burgers, what else am I to eat?

Every time I go to dinner, they are always serving meat

**VEG:**  Don't you get it? This is bigger than your taste for juicy steak

Ignoring global climate change is a big fat mistake

Weather changes are a comin’, that we can't deny

Super storms they are a stormin’, trees be fallin’ from the sky

**MEAT:**  I’m not a fool, I don’t deny climate change

but as for me being the problem, I think that’s a little strange

cause everything I know about climate shift so far

is that warming is caused by smog released from factories and cars

what about families with 2 vehicles in their home

why don’t you pick on their oil consumption

and leave my meat choices alone

**VEG:** True, smoke from cars and factories play a part

but they don’t get half as hot as the gas in cow farts

eating just one burger is actually on par

with driving 320 miles in an average car!

**MEAT:** so don’t drive and don’t eat meat, now I know you is crazy

so making meat makes greenhouse gases, but your logic’s getting hazy

do the words FOOD CHAIN mean anything to you?

or have you forgotten the ways of the world, you hippie dippy fooo

predators eat meat- it's not so complicated

we've been doing it for centuries and it's not yet outdated

just so you know, meat’s a source of protein

that keeps up stores of energy and

makes me strong and lean

and by the way, if you’re so clever,

then did you know eating cheese really isn’t much better?

and are you prepared to give up your cheddar?

please daddio- and as for the weather--

**VEG:** you might think we are at the top of the food chain

but we also have a little brains

and for the sake of mother earth, then you would have to be insane-

to keep eating so much meat

cause it’s causing the planet to warm and I already feel the heat

so maybe you can’t give up meat altogether- ok

but maybe we could give up meat some of the days

meatless Monday, vegan Wednesdays

could be more manageable perhaps

that way we could slow complete ecological collapse

**MEAT:** ecological collapse! its time to calm down

I’m not giving up my burger and you’re acting like a clown

maybe eating meat is bad for the earth

but when I think about that burgers girth

and sinking my teeth in to that juicy meat

I just ignore the bad impacts and think, life is sweet

who cares about the earth and the next generation?

this is America! the United States of Burger Nation!

**VEG:** Burger Nation?! Abomination!!

Our founding father never thought that this great federation

Would become a dumping ground for cow flatulation!

But there’s another reason to stop meat infatuation.

And believe you me, it’s a sad situation.

Did you know factory farming represents almost all

of the meat we eat? And while I guess it’s your call

if you wanna eat that burger it should be understood

that it came from a cow who didn’t have it so good.

They cut off his horns without anesthetic

and they branded him, too—that just isn’t copacetic.

Cows should eat grass but they made him eat corn

which is bad for his stomach and makes him forlorn

**MEAT**: Sure, I can cut down on burgers, I guess

Didn’t know factory farms could be such a mess

Animal suffering just isn’t cool

so let me propose to you a new rule:

I’ll lay off the beef and switch over to chicken

A fine-roasted fowl is still finger-lickin’

**VEG:** Sorry to nag, but I’ll spin a new verse:

Our fine feathered friends have it even worse!

Chickens and turkeys have been bred to grow so fast

that they’re in constant pain, man this system can’t last!

breasts so large that they got trouble standing,

just cuz we consumers are so very demanding.

Their genetics have been twisted into crazy contortions,

so now they all possess frankensteinian proportions!

But this debate is over, man, it’s time to wrap it up

little Chanie’s/Mikey’s over here and he/she’s begging us to stop

let’s see if he/she has made his/her choice

more than anything, I just want to hear his/her voice

**CHANIE**: I never thought choosing what to eat would be so COMPLICATED. Now I REALLY don’t know what to eat for dinner! I want to know what all these other people think. You out there! What do you all think we should eat for dinner?

**Food for Thought:**

We eat dinner seven times a week – thinking about everything you just heard, how many of those seven dinners do you think should include meat? Talk it over at your tables, and then hold up on your fingers how many nights a week (from zero to seven) you think you should eat meat.

[Kids discuss for a minute and hold up fingers. Call on a few kids to share their answers, and why. Close with a discussion of meat reduction options, e.g. Meatless Mondays, Vegan Wednesdays, and MOOSHY diet (Meat Only On Shabbat and Yom tov)]