

PBS Lesson Series

# ELA, Grade 6, Lesson 19

Teacher Packet

# Independent Activity – Lesson 18

Identify a type of food that gives you joy when you eat it.

Write a narrative description of that food using a joyful tone.

In your writing you should use specific word choice, descriptions, and figurative language to help express the joy you feel when you eat this particular food.

# Student Response

I can still remember the first time I smelled the sweet, smoky flavor of hickory wood when we walked into the restaurant. It was my first time to ever try traditional barbecue, but I immediately knew it would not be my last. As the waitress brought the plate of pulled pork, I knew immediately this would be the first time in a while I did not need to ask for ketchup for a meal. As I ate each smoky bite, the barbecue continued to melt in my mouth.

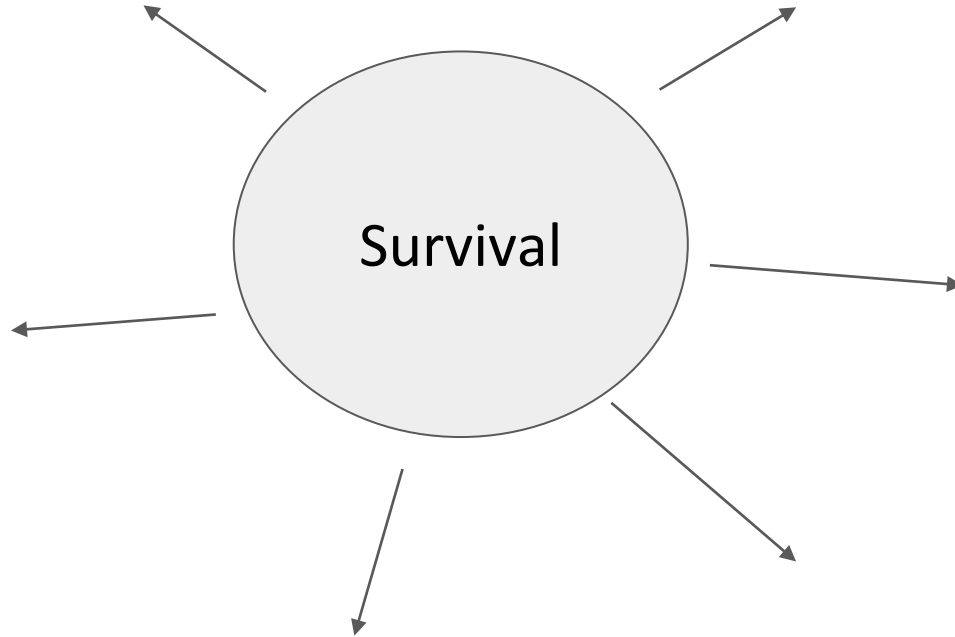
We have made several trips back to my favorite restaurant. I still eat the pulled pork sometimes, but the happiness that I feel when I try more and more off the menu lets me know that the sweet, smoky flavor of any barbecue brings a smile to my face and my stomach.

# Student Response

I can still remember the first time I smelled the sweet, smoky flavor of hickory wood when we walked into the restaurant. It was my first time to ever try traditional barbecue, but I immediately knew it would not be my last. As the waitress brought the plate of pulled pork, I knew immediately this would be the first time in a while I did not need to ask for ketchup for a meal. As I ate each smoky bite, the barbecue continued to melt in my mouth.

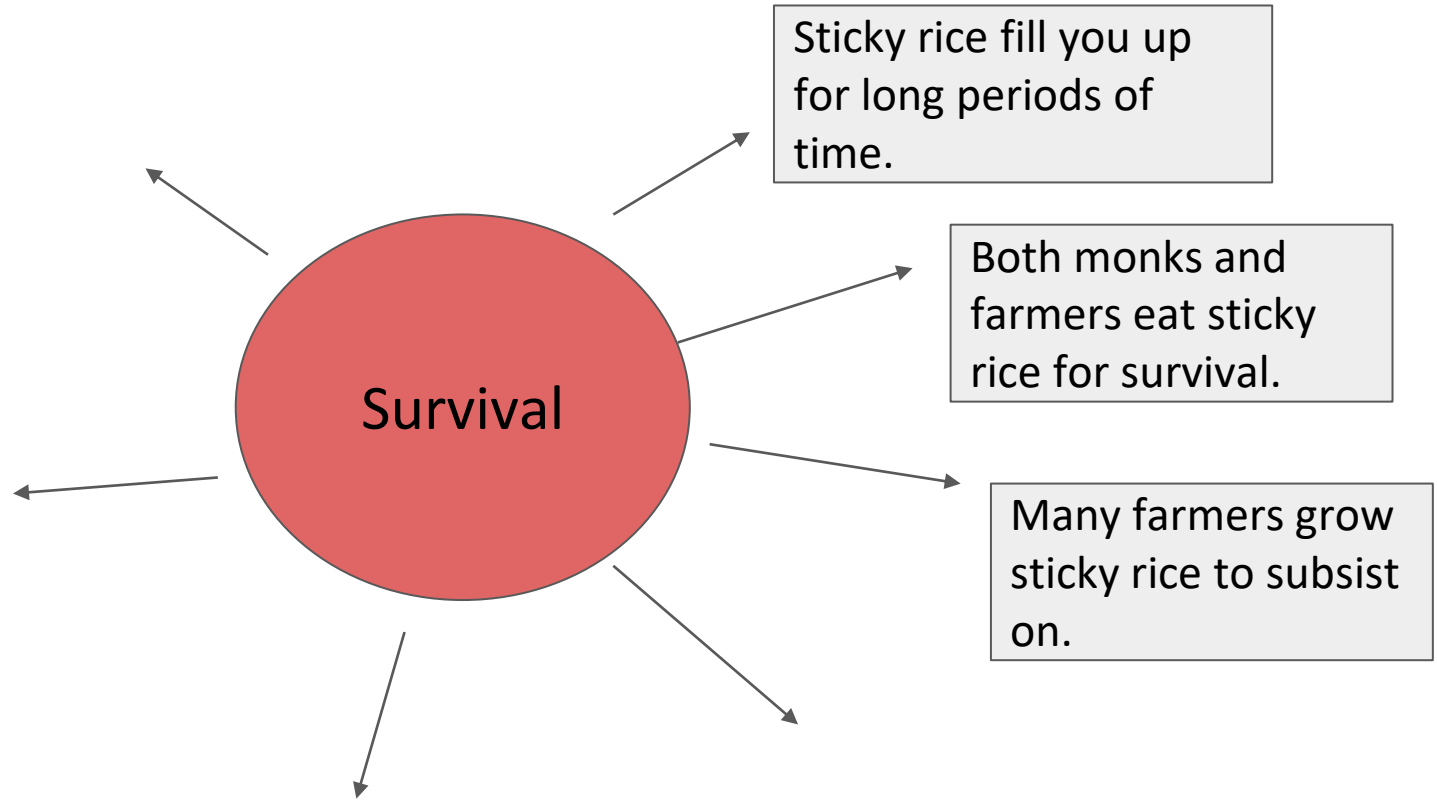
We have made several trips back to my favorite restaurant. I still eat the pulled pork sometimes, but the happiness that I feel when I try more and more off the menu lets me know that the sweet, smoky flavor of any barbecue brings a smile to my face and my stomach.

# Notes Web



# “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(13) But sticky rice isn’t merely spiritual fuel. Because it takes longer to digest than white rice does, it sates hunger for longer periods. That’s good for Laotian monks, who generally don’t eat after midday. “People give us only sticky rice, which is awesome,” said Sary Phonesay, a 19-year-old monk with brown eyes and a gentle smile. He was standing in the sun-dappled courtyard of a Buddhist temple in Luang Prabang (luh-wahng prah-bahng) , where tourists line up each morning like band groupies outside of a stadium box office to place steaming clumps of khao niaw into the monks’ collection pots. When I asked why he prefers sticky rice to white rice, the monk said, “If I eat sticky rice, I’ll be full longer.” Laotian farmers I asked repeated variations of Sary’s explanation. Agriculture, mainly subsistence rice farming, employs three out of four Laotians. Sticky rice packs well in banana leaves and is a common field-side snack.



# “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(14) Sticky rice grows in Laotian lowlands and uplands. Lowland farmers plant it in flooded paddies; upland farmers intercrop it on hillsides with companion crops like taro, cassava, and chili peppers. Because hillsides generally receive less-predictable supplies of water than paddies do, hillside rice fields tend to be more susceptible to drought.



# Pictures of rice paddies



Source: [Inhabitat.com](https://www.inhabitat.com)



Source: [MSN](https://www.msn.com)

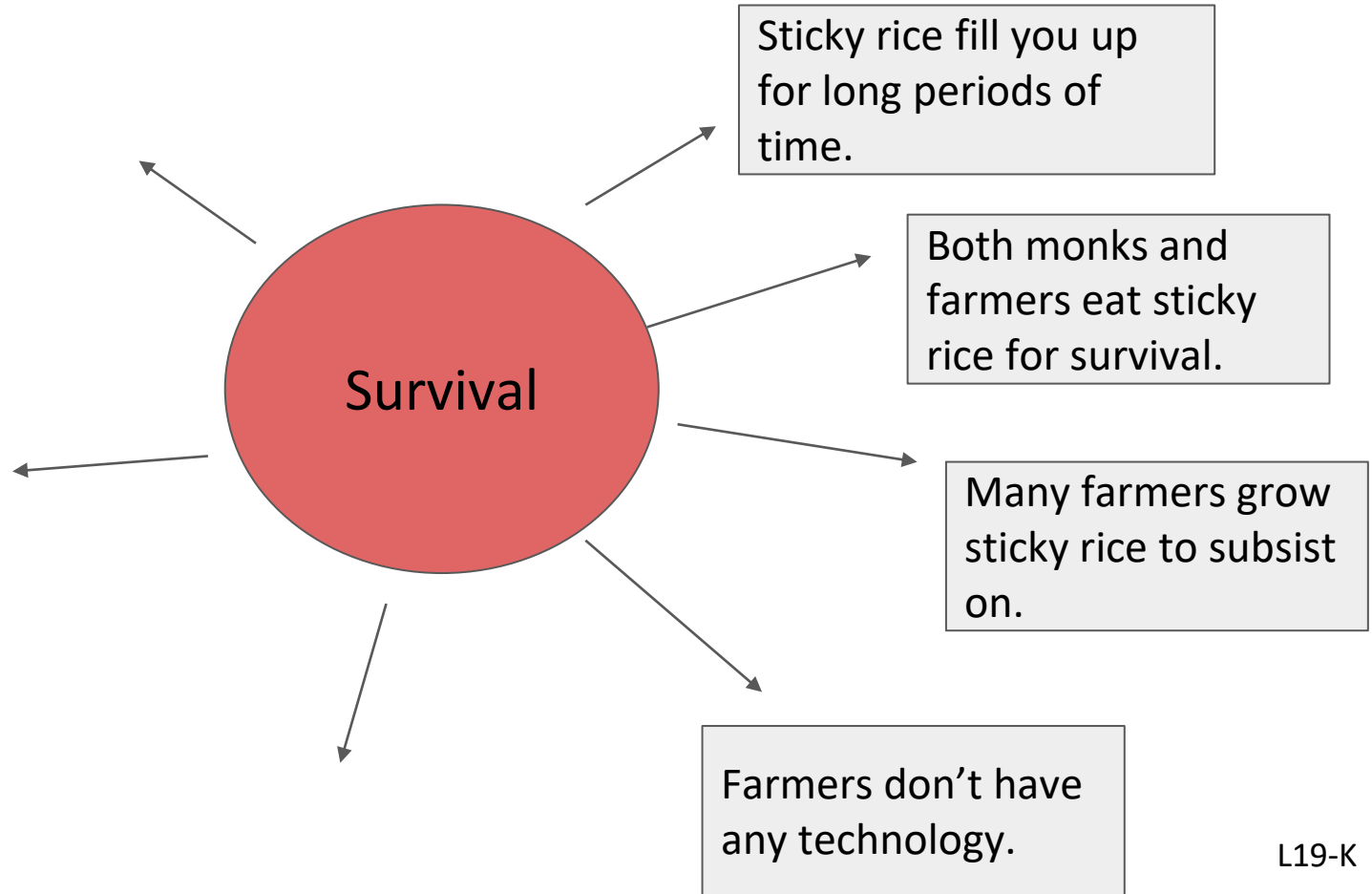
L19-H

# “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(15) Curious about hillside sticky rice, my friends and I rode an overnight bus from Luang Prabang to Luang Namtha, a one-lane town near the Laos-China border. At a Luang Namtha eco-outfitter, we asked a friendly guide to take us into the town on rented motorbikes. The passing landscape alternated between forests, rubber plantations, thatch-roof houses and cleared hillsides whose golden color reminded me of California’s Santa Ynez Valley.

# “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(16) Soon we were hiking near a sleepy village whose sign read Khoua Soung (koo-wah song). Farmers from the Kmhmu (kuh-moo) ethnic group were harvesting sticky rice on a distant hillside. As we approached russet-colored rice stalks, Luck praised the view: he had sketched similarly pastoral scenes in primary school, he recalled, but always from his imagination. “We’re not in the lowlands anymore,” said Luck, whose white headphones were playing Laotian pop music from a pocket MP3 player. “Those people have to stand up allday, and they don’t have any technology to help!”

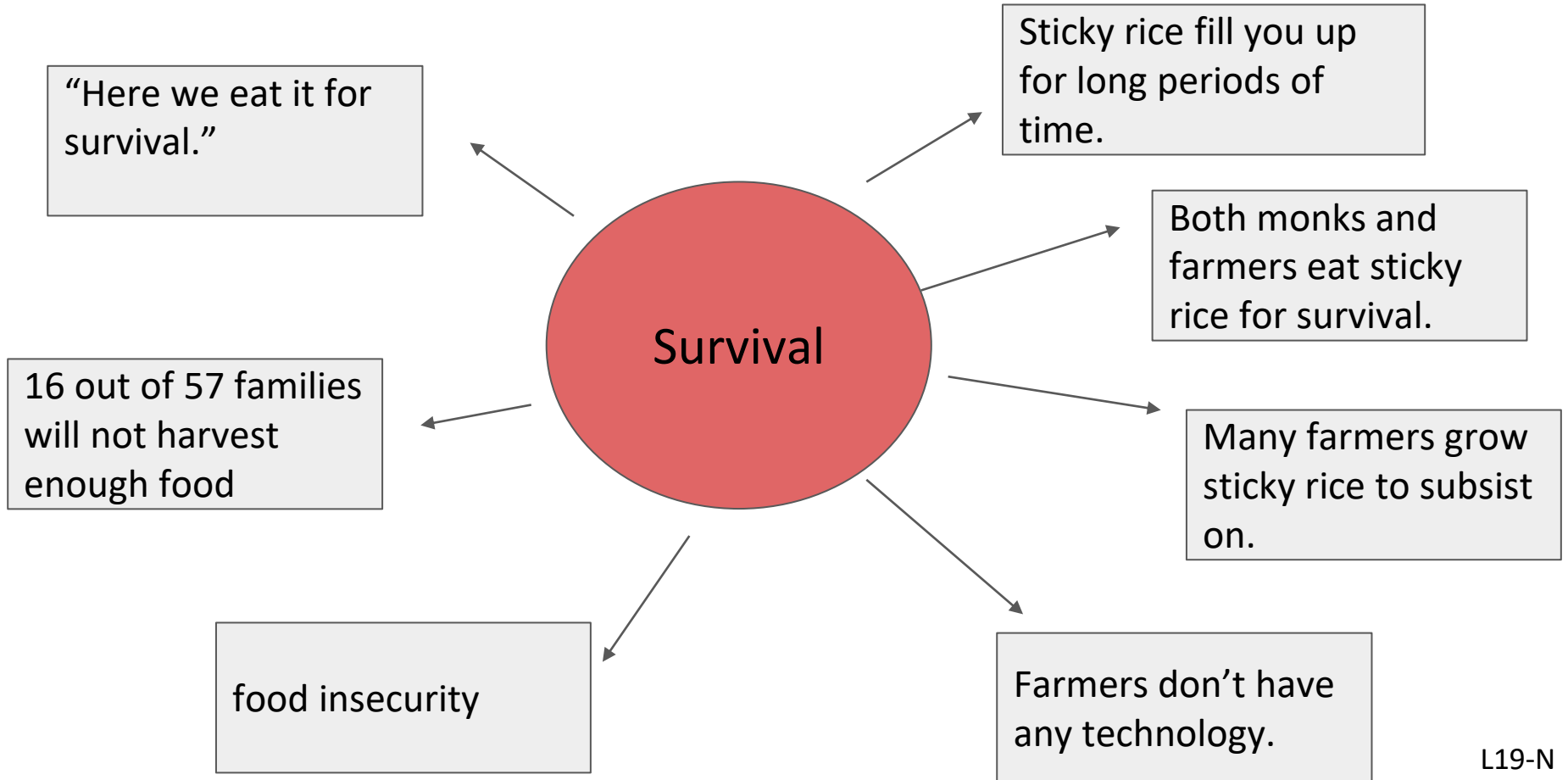


# “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(17) Indeed, most Kmhmu people are upland subsistence farmers, and they use decidedly low-tech production techniques. Men and women stripped sticky rice grains by hand from mature stalks, then dropped the grains into woven baskets attached to their hips. After dumping the rice into white sacks, they carried the sacks down the hill.

# “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

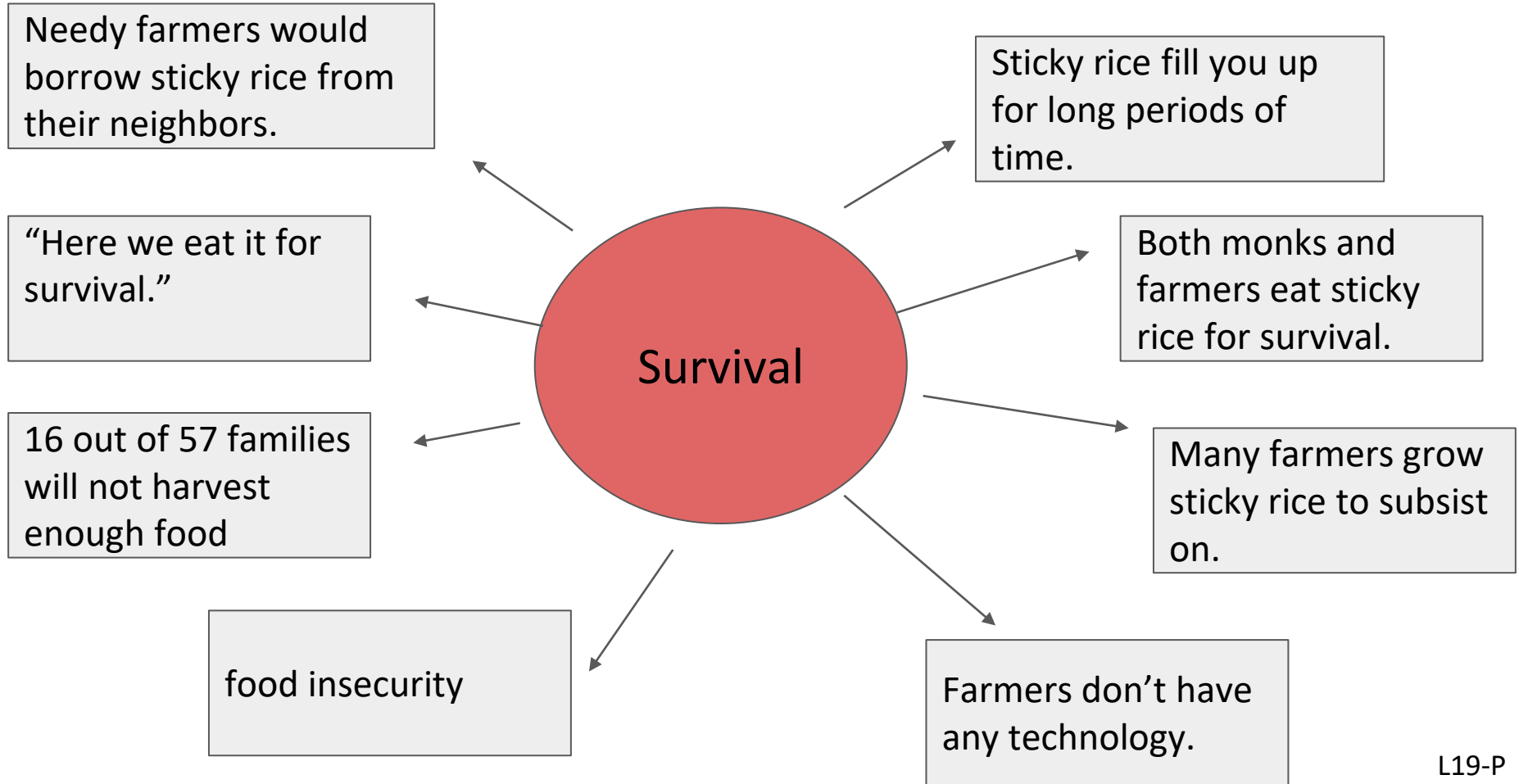
(18) Rural development experts told me that many Laotian farmers wage a constant battle against food insecurity. The farmers of Khoua Soung were no exception: Because of drought and rodent infestations, they said, 16 of their village’s 57 families wouldn’t harvest enough sticky rice this year to meet their own needs. “In the cities, they eat sticky rice for taste,” said Juelang, a quiet farmer who was drinking water from a plastic motor-oil can. “Here we eat if for survival.”



# “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

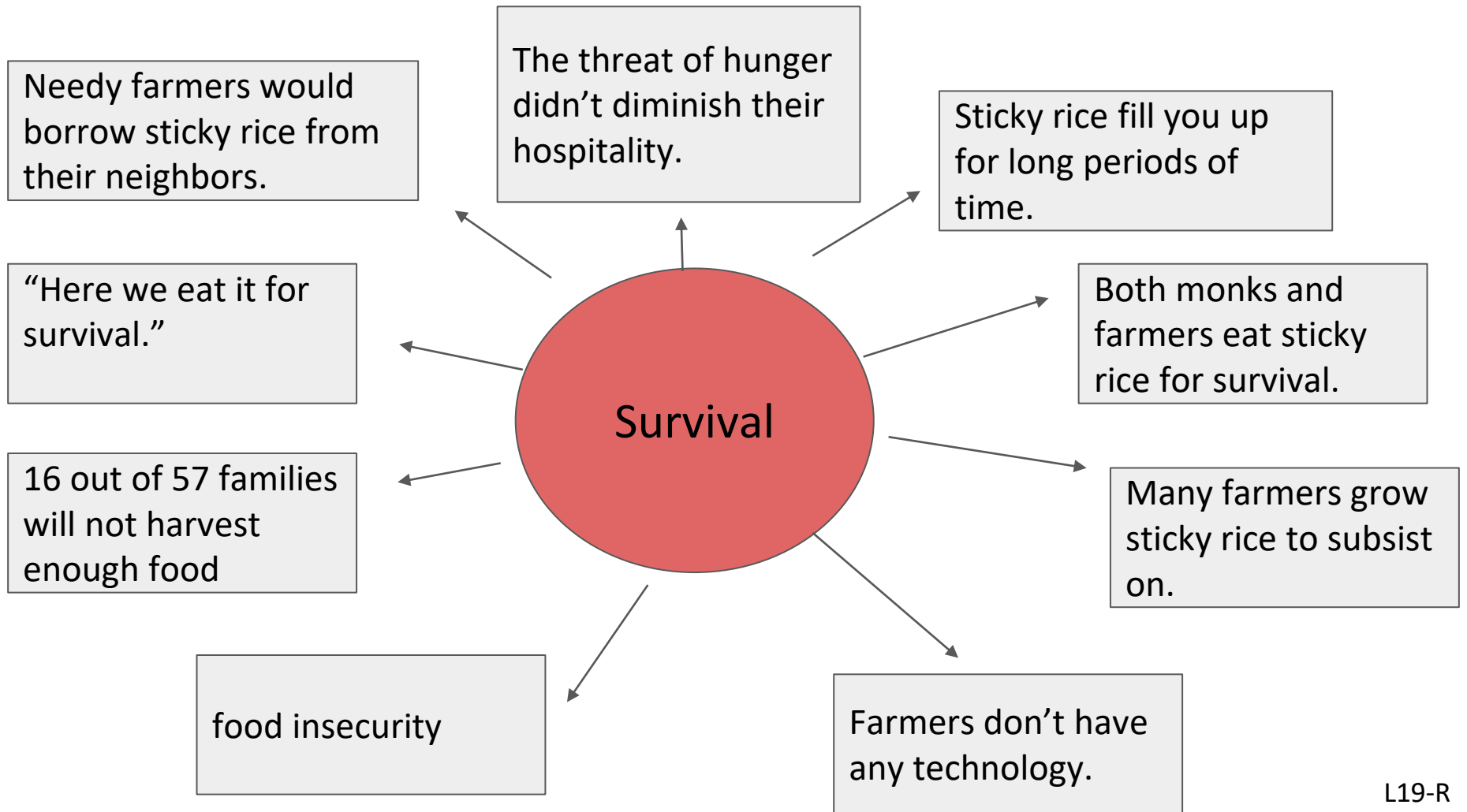
(19) Over an evening bonfire in Khoua Soung — a roadside cluster of wooden stilt houses — farmers discussed survival strategies. Some were selling rubber sap and wild cardamom to Chinese traders; others were selling rice-harvesting baskets to tourists. If all else failed, said 41-year-old farmer Han Tom Keo, needy farmers would borrow sticky rice from their neighbors.



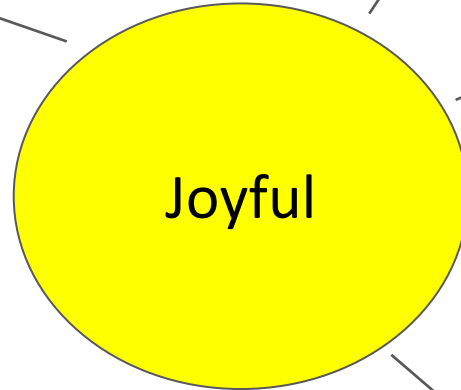


# “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish”

(20) The threat of hunger didn’t diminish their hospitality. As stars replaced the sun in a cloudless sky, the farmers invited us into a stilt house and served us spicy jeow, pickled bamboo shoots, fresh chicken soup and steaming hunks of khao niaw. I handled my sticky rice carefully, conscious of how much elbow grease had gone into each grain. We ate and chatted, and ate some more, until about 8 p.m. Afterward we were so full that we went directly to bed. Lying under a mosquito net in the head villager’s drafty stilt house, I listened for sounds of evening activity. Silence. The farmers were sleeping, and for good reason: There was more sticky rice to harvest, starting at daybreak.



How does the author convey the idea that eating sticky rice is a joyful experience?



Sticky rice is used during baci ceremony.

“People give us only sticky rice, which is awesome!”

To eat as much as possible

Luck ate the sticky rice quickly.

The sticky rice made luck feel better.

National love for sticky rice

Per capita, Laotians eat 345 lbs of rice each year.

Sticky rice is the way Laotians identify themselves.

Still tastes great after two steamings.

delicious

How does the author convey the idea that eating sticky rice is a joyful experience?

Sample Response:

The author uses many different details to convey the idea that eating sticky rice is a joyful experience. First, the story of Luck trying to find sticky rice on the bus shows how badly people in Laos want sticky rice. Also, the author presents several details to show that sticky rice is identified with Laos “like baguettes in France and sushi in Japan.” They eat a lot of it: about 345 pounds per person, according to the article. Sticky rice has been grown in Southeast Asia for over 4000 years. Finally, sticky rice is used in both everyday dishes and religious ceremonies. Monks use it for food because it helps them stay full for longer. A monk said, “People give us only sticky rice, which is awesome.” Since so much sticky rice has been eaten by so many people in many ways for so many years, these details show the joy of eating sticky rice.

# Independent Activity

Write a paragraph response that answers the question:

How does the author convey the idea that eating sticky rice is necessary for survival?

You are encouraged to use your notes from today's lesson. Try to use quotations and paraphrased details to support your response.

Remember to use the introductory sentence:

- In the article, “A Taste of Sticky Rice, Laos’ National Dish,” the author included several details to support the idea that sticky rice is necessary for survival in Laos.