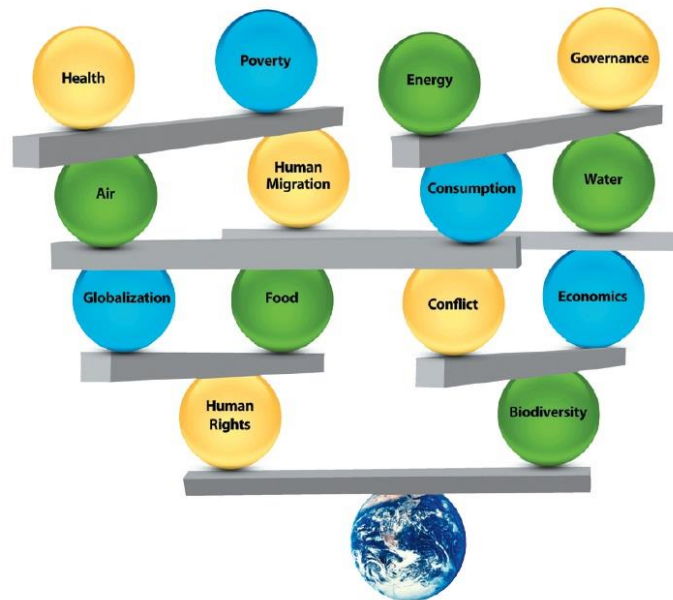


Global Issues in Balance



Finding the Balance on Global Issues: Learning Stations & Explorations.

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to have the students explore a range of global issues including: the Loss of Biodiversity; Global Warming or Climate Change; Water protection or conservation; Human Rights; Population and Consumption. After exploring the issues students should appreciate the complexity, interconnectedness, and the vital need for action rather than in action. Students should recognize the need for a collective response from governments, non-governmental agencies, and individuals. Explorations should show that simple solutions to one global issue may have a profound effect on another issue and at the same time, if we're going to address any global issue first steps must be taken...

Process: Using their laptops/Chromebooks and the resources provided, students should explore the various issues identified at each learning Station. After visiting, viewing, reading and reflecting explorers should answer the assigned questions. Questions focus attention on the key issues and point the different directions students could take toward active citizenship.

Learning Goals: Because the second unit of the course is inquiry based, the goal of this exercise is for the students to conduct an inquiry into 5 different topics, reflect upon the perspectives and world views provided and be able to answer: What is the problem? Who is involved? What are some solutions? What can I do?

Assessment: student responses to questions in each learning Station will be evaluated according to: completeness; thoughtfulness and understanding; ability to appreciate the complexity & interconnectedness of each of the issues... and ultimately the students ability to find a balance on global issues. A unit test will follow the completion of the Unit.

Learning Station 1: Bio-Diversity and the Loss of Species

Step 1: Visit, Read/view & reflect:

How Biodiversity Keeps Earth Alive. By David Biello

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-biodiversity-keeps-earth-alive/>

Why is biodiversity so important? By Kim Preshoff

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-is-biodiversity-so-important-kim-preshoff>

Biodiversity. By Anup Shah

<http://www.globalissues.org/issue/169/biodiversity>

10 things you can do to help biodiversity. By David Hooper;

<http://www.biol.wvu.edu/hooper/10thingsforbiodiversity.pdf>

Step 2: Reflect & Answer the following questions:

1. What is meant by biodiversity? What three intertwined features create Biodiversity? How is biodiversity a global issue?
2. What are the consequences of its inaction on the loss of biodiversity? (Why should we care? How can people be moved to take action?)
3. What or who are some of the groups, parties, organizations, government departments or agencies that must come together to protect biodiversity?
4. What can be done by governments, nongovernmental agencies and individuals to resolve threats to biodiversity? What is meant by sustainable development and consumption?
5. What might you do to protect the Earth's biodiversity, either locally or nationally or globally?

Learning Station 2: Human Rights

Step 1: Visit, Read/view & reflect:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

<http://www.un.org/en/udhrbook/>

Why are human rights important?

http://www.pearsonpublishing.co.uk/education/samples/S_497198.pdf

Human Rights Basics

http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/human_rights_basics

The growing threats to human rights

<https://www.cigionline.org/articles/2009/12/growing-threats-human-rights>

Maiese, Michelle. "Human Rights Protection." *Beyond Intractability*. Eds. Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess. Conflict Information Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder. Posted: June 2004

<<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/human-rights-protect>>.

Step 2: Reflect & Answer the following questions:

1. What is meant by the term human rights? What does article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights assert? When was it written and why? Which of the 30 sections is most important to you?
2. Who is responsible for defending or upholding human rights? Have governments being successful in promoting and defending human rights? Why or why not? When a government ratifies a human rights treaty, it assumes a legal obligation to do what?
3. What are some of the groups that have to come together in order to ensure human rights for all?
4. What are some of the threats to human rights? What can be done to protect and preserve human rights—locally, nationally, and internationally?
5. What could you do to advance, protect, or promote human rights? How might you compel others to care about the human rights of others?

Learning Station 3: Climate Change or “Global Warming”

Step 1: Visit, Read/view & reflect:

Al Gore: New thinking on the climate crisis

https://www.ted.com/talks/al_gore_s_new_thinking_on_the_climate_crisis?language=en

What is climate change? By: The David Suzuki Foundation

<https://www.davidsuzuki.org/issues/climate-change/science/climate-change-basics/climate-change-101-1/>

Global Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet

<http://climate.nasa.gov/>

(be sure to look in different areas including: Facts, articles, solutions, explore and resources)

The Other Inconvenient Truth by Jonathan Foley

https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_foley_the_other_inconvenient_truth?language=en

Climate change and global warming. By: Anup Shah

<http://www.globalissues.org/issue/178/climate-change-and-global-warming>

Climate change: top 10 things you can do to help.

<http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=D27052CE-1>

Step 2: Reflect & Answer the following questions:

1. What is meant by the term climate change or global warming? What are the causes of these changes in long-term weather patterns?
2. How does climate change require a local, regional, national, and international response?
3. What are some of the groups, partners, agencies and government there must come together in order to solve climate change issues?
4. What are some of the consequences of doing nothing about global warming or climate change? What other global issues are impacted by climate change?
5. What could you do to advance, protect, or promote action on climate change? How might you compel others to care about the issue of climate change?

Learning Station 4: Water

Step 1: Visit, Read/view & reflect:

United Nations: Global Issues: Water

<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/water/index.shtml>

Water Stress. By Maude Barlow

<http://www.globalissues.org/video/739/maude-barlow-water-stress>

Your Water Footprint: the Shocking Facts about How Much Water We Use to Make Everyday Products.

By Stephen Leahy (Firefly Books: Buffalo, New York, 2014)

What Is The Ocean Acidification? By the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/co2/story/What+is+Ocean+Acidification%3F>

Step 2: Reflect & Answer the following questions:

1. How is water a global issue? How was water recognized by the United Nations? What conditions surround the access and use of water?
2. How do access to water, water conservation, protection of water from pollution, and did desalination and the acidification of water require a local, regional, national, and international responses?
3. What are some of the groups, partners, agencies and government there must come together in order to protect water and access to water resources.
4. What are some of the consequences of doing nothing about water management, conservation, or preservation? What other global issues are impacted by a water?
5. What could you do to advance, protect, or promote action on water conservation, preservation, or access to clean drinking water? How might you compel others to reduce water consumption and pollution?

Learning Station 5: Population

Step 1: Visit, Read/view & reflect:

Global Issues: Population

<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/population/>

Hans Rosling on Global Population Growth

https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_on_global_population_growth?language=en

As World's Population Booms, Will Its Resources Be Enough For Us? By: Dennis Dimick

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/09/140920-population-11billion-demographics-anthropocene/>

Population Growth Is Still the Biggest Problem Facing Humanity. By: Gary Peters

<http://www.businessinsider.com/population-growth-must-stop-2010-7>

Sustainability And Population Growth As A Global Problem . By: Wim Couwenberg in *Civis Mundi*, April 2008

<http://www.overpopulationawareness.org/en/articles/item/373-sustainability-and-population-growth-as-a-global-problem>

Step 2: Reflect & Answer the following questions:

1. How is human population a global issue? How has the human population changed since 1900? What problems or conditions arise surrounding the rapid growth in human societies?
2. In the past how is human population held in check what mechanisms prevent human overpopulation?
3. What are some of the groups, partners, agencies and government there must come together in order to slow human population growth?
4. What are some of the strategies to slow human population growth to a sustainable, equitable and fair level?
5. What could you do to address the population issue? Who could you talk to, influence, or move to action on the issue of population growth?

Learning Station 6: Consumption

Step 1: Visit, Read/view & reflect:

Overconsumption is costing us the Earth and Human Happiness. By Celia Cole

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2010/jun/21/overconsumption-environment-relationships-annie-leonard>

Overconsumption. On Worldcentric: Zero Waste Solutions

Step 2: Reflect & Answer the following questions:

1. How is human population a global issue? How has the human population changed since 1900? What problems or conditions arise surrounding the rapid growth in human societies?
2. In the past how is human population held in check what mechanisms prevent human overpopulation?
3. What are some of the groups, partners, agencies and government there must come together in order to slow human population growth?
4. What are some of the strategies to slow human population growth to a sustainable, equitable and fair level?
5. What could you do to address the population issue? Who could you talk to, influence, or move to action on the issue of population growth?