ACTIVITIES TO INTRODUCE THE CURRICULUM

Quick activities to get students started on exploring global issues

GLOBAL ISSUES TRIVIA GAME

SCAVENGER HUNT FOR THE READING GUIDE
Population, Poverty, Consumption, and the Environment

CROSSWORD PUZZLES
Words on the World—Grades 5-8
It’s Our Future—Grades 9-12
GLOBAL Issues TRIVIA

OVERVIEW
Use this trivia game as an introduction to the study of critical global issues. Students collaborate in teams to answer questions about world population, economics, and environmental issues.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS
• Global Issues
• Interconnection

SUBJECT AREAS
• Social studies
• Geography
• Environmental studies
• Mathematics
• Economics

GRADE LEVEL: 5–12

INQUIRY/Critical Thinking Questions
How are the issues of population growth, resource consumption, poverty, conflict, and the environment connected?

OBJECTIVES
Students will:
Collaborate and answer questions about critical global issues.

NATIONAL STANDARDS CONSISTENCY
• NCSS: 2, 3, 7, 9
• NSES: C, F
• NGS: 4, 9, 12

TIME REQUIRED: 10–20 minutes

MATERIALS
Teacher master Global Issues Trivia Questions

ACTIVITY
1. Divide the class into two teams and have them arrange their seats so team-members can discuss the questions.
2. Give the following directions: Each team chooses a spokesperson. Team one will be asked a question and will have 10 seconds to discuss the question among their team members and then give their answer. For each correct answer, they get one point. If the team that is asked the question gets it wrong, the other team gets to answer the question. Rotate questions between the two teams.
3. Choose some or all of the trivia questions from the teacher master Global Issues Trivia Questions and begin the game. (Some questions are multiple-choice.)
4. (Optional) You may want to have a prize for the winning team!

REFLECTION
• Have the class discuss what they think are the most surprising and/or shocking facts.
• Discuss how the issues raised in the game are connected to each other.
• Ask what issue(s) interests them the most and what would they like to learn more about.
GLOBAL ISSUES TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. What is the current human population of the world? (About 6.2 billion)
2. What was the world’s human population in 1960? (3 billion)
3. At current rates of growth, what will world population be in 2050? (13 billion)
4. What are the first, second, third, and fourth most most-populous countries in the world?
   (From first to fourth most populous: China, India, United States, Indonesia)
5. By about how many people per year is world population growing?
   a. 25 million; b. 55 million; c. 80 million; d. 95 million (80 million)
6. What percentage today of the world’s people live in cities? a. 10%; b. 25%; c. 50%; d. 80% (50%)
7. What city in the world has the largest population? (Tokyo with 28 million)
8. Because of urban sprawl in the United States, an area the size of which state is paved over each year?
   a. Texas; b. Delaware; c. Rhode Island; d. Kansas (Delaware)
9. In 1950, average life expectancy worldwide was: a. 36; b. 46; c. 56; d. 66 (46)
10. In 2000, average life expectancy worldwide was: a. 46; b. 56; c. 66; d. 76 (66)
11. What is the scientific term for the area of the Earth’s surface necessary to support a given human lifestyle? (Ecological footprint or environmental footprint)
12. What type of land has decreased the most as the total human footprint on Earth increases? (Natural habitat)
13. What environmental concern is associated with habitat loss? (Biodiversity—extinction of species)
14. Generally speaking, what two factors are most closely linked to family size? (Education and income)
15. What is one humane method proven to reduce population growth? What is another humane method proven to reduce population growth? (Provide access to reproductive health care; educate and empower women; reduce poverty)
16. Roughly what percentage of the world’s people live on $2 a day or less?
   a. 15%; b. 30%; c. 50%; d. 65% (50%)
17. Roughly what percentage of the world’s people live on $1 a day or less? 20%
18. What is the most widely spoken language on Earth? (Mandarin Chinese—almost 900 million speakers)
19. Roughly how many people in the world today are chronically hungry? (800 million)
20. Roughly what percentage of the world’s people lack access to a safe water supply?
   a. 10%; b. 15%; c. 20%; d. 50% (20%)
21. How many countries are known to have nuclear weapons?
   a. 4; b. 8; c. 16; d. 20 (8: United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, Pakistan, India)
22. What is the approximate size of the global economy? (45 trillion dollars)
23. How much does the United Nations estimate the global AIDS epidemic has cost the world through 2001? a. 100 billion; b. 250 billion; c. 500 billion; d. 800 billion (500 billion dollars)
24. Approximately what percentage of global energy do hydrocarbon fuels generate?
   a. 20%; b. 40%; c. 60%; d. 80% (80%)
25. What element do many scientists believe can provide an unlimited source of clean energy? (Hydrogen)
Directions: Fill in the blanks with your answers and the page numbers where you found them.

1. What was the population of the world in 1960?
   ______________________________________ Page #_____

2. What was world population in 2000?
   ______________________________________ Page #_____

3. Find the sidebar called Big Foot. How many acres does it take to support the lifestyle of a typical citizen of the United States?
   ______________________________________ Page #_____

4. What does BCE stand for?
   ______________________________________ Page #_____

5. Find the picture of a woman sorting mangos. How many people in the world don’t get enough to eat?
   ______________________________________ Page #_____

6. Locate the photograph of a young worker in Peru and explain why it often makes sense for poor families to have lots of children.
   ______________________________________ Page #_____

7. Find the graph “World Fresh Water Per Capita.” Is there more or less fresh water per person today than there was in 1950?
   ______________________________________ Page #_____

8. What is the Facing the Future website address?
   ______________________________________ Page #_____

9. What are two “personal solutions” discussed in the Sustainable Solutions chapter?
   ______________________________________ Page #_____
10. Find the windmills photograph and list two sources of renewable energy. ________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________ Page #

11. List three websites recommended by Facing the Future. ____________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________ Page #

12. Find the “None for You, Girl” sidebar and list two ways discussed here to reduce poverty and help protect the environment. ________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________ Page #

13. What is the size of the average human environmental (ecological) footprint? _______________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________ Page #

14. Why doesn’t Joyti, the girl living in India, go to school? ___________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________ Page #

15. What percentage of the world’s oil do U.S. citizens use? ____________________________
   Percentage of the world’s paper used by U.S. citizens? ____________________________
   Percentage of the world’s toxic waste created by U.S. citizens? ______________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________ Page #

16. What are three “global solutions” as discussed in the Sustainable Solutions chapter? ____________
___________________________________________________________________________________________ Page #
1. What was the population of the world in 1960? (3 billion) Page 7

2. What was world population in 2000? (6.1 billion) Page 8

3. Find the sidebar called Big Foot. How many acres does it take to support the lifestyle of a typical citizen of the United States? (30) Page 11


5. Find the picture of a woman sorting mangos. How many people in the world don't get enough to eat? (800 million) Page 15

6. Locate the photograph of a young worker in Peru and explain why it often makes sense for poor families to have lots of children. (Kids help support their families by producing food, hauling water, collecting firewood, and begging. They are often hired out to sweatshops, or sold into slavery or prostitution. Because children often die from hunger and disease, parents have more children than they would if they knew all their children would likely survive.) Page 23

7. Find the graph “World Fresh Water Per Capita.” Is there more or less fresh water per person today than there was in 1950? (Less) Page 16

8. What is the Facing the Future website address? (www.facingthefuture.org) Page 32

9. Write two “personal solutions” discussed in the Sustainable Solutions chapter. (Personal: Think about how many kids you’ll have; reduce your footprint; flex your money muscles; get political; think big) Page 29

10. Find the windmills photograph and list two sources of renewable energy. (Wind; solar) Page 20


12. Find the “None for You, Girl” sidebar and list two ways discussed here to reduce poverty and help protect the environment. (Supporting equal rights; investing in women’s education) Page 24

13. What is the size of the average human environmental (ecological) footprint? (Just over 7 acres) Page 10

14. Why doesn’t Joyti, the girl living in India, go to school? (It’s a question of money—in India, spending their few resources to educate sons makes more sense than educating their daughters.) Page 12–13

15. What percentage of the world’s oil do U.S. citizens use? (25%)
   Percentage of the world’s paper used by U.S. citizens? (33%)
   Percentage of the world’s toxic waste created by U.S. citizens? (66%) Page 26–27

16. What are three “global solutions” discussed in the Sustainable Solutions chapter? (Reproductive and community health care; eliminating poverty; educating and empowering women; changing our minds) Page 30
Across
1. The whole wide...
3. Liberty and _____ for all
5. BIG fighting
7. Safe and sound
9. Opposite of #5 across
10. Pleased
11. Use resources
13. Energy from the sun
14. Not enough food

Down
1. Trash
2. Autos
4. The electrical kind turns lights on
5. A cool kind of energy
6. Atlantic and Pacific
8. Wish for
9. Human beings
10. Being well
12. Swim in it, drink it
ACROSS

2. Something to drink when you're thirsty
3. Knowledge acquisition
4. Largest, most populous region of the world
6. Grower of food
9. Starvation
10. What geese and other birds do
12. Having an option
14. Over 6 billion worldwide
16. Raw materials
19. Cast a ballot
20. Your use of resources is your environmental ______________
22. Wanderer
23. Country

DOWN

1. Power from the sun
2. Cultural perspective
3. Our surroundings
5. Continent where Zambia is
7. Everyone living together happily
8. Give choices to
11. Linked
13. Gas guzzlers
14. Lack of wealth
15. Deadly combat
17. Study of balance in nature
18. A resource that regenerates is __________
21. Liberty and ________ for all
24. Not dirty
25. Nourishment for the body
26. See in your mind's eye
29. Having the same rights
30. Getting bigger
32. Biological classification
34. Two wheeled environmentally clean transport
36. Optimism

IT'S OUR FUTURE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
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