

SCIENCE EDUCATION

facilitator's notes

Local Environmental Issues

Activity

What are the diverse issues that impact upon the quality of life space environments – nearby and close to home?



Purpose

This worksheet, will demonstrate an understanding of how man and nature co-exist. In the process, learners learn to understand skill processes (eg: problem solving, critical thinking, decision making)

Background

How population growth globally is creating serious environmental problems. Why?

Today's worldwide human population of 6.6 billion is expected to grow to more than billion by 2050. With each new person added to the total population, the competition for finite resources such as food and water increases, the lack of those resources in many parts of the world becomes more deadly, and problems such as global warming become more difficult to solve. Issues that impact upon natural and built environments are destined to destroy our environments in which we live.

Some worrying issues are listed on the Wikipedia website (www.wikipedia.org/wiki/List)

Some identified environmental issues

- Climate Change and global warming
- Biodiversity
- Human Population
- Animal and Nature Conservation
- Ozone depletion



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Preparation

1. Learners select an issue of particular interest to them.
2. Learners collect data from print / internet / radio / television resources / magazines / maps.
3. Learners analyse and discuss the chosen issue.
4. Learners propose strategies to create and maintain co-operative living habitats thus ensuring quality of life for man and nature.
5. South African internet sites to visit:
 - www.wikipedia.org
 - www.arc.agric.za
 - www.botsocsa.org.za
 - www.ewt.org.za
 - www.environment.gov.za

Procedure

1. It is critically important that learners, who are tomorrow's decision-makers, be made aware of issues that have an impact on the quality of life, and that they develop the ability to analyse and remedy existing and/or potential problems in the context of social communities.
2. Learners are introduced to several issues (see Grade 11) (pollution, population, habitat, ecosystems, sustainable development, human settlements and renewable resources.)
3. Group learners into small groups and allow them to research a selected issue.
4. Learners use internet web sites, television and radio, cameras, video recorders, camcorders and community resources.
5. Learners use critical thinking, problem solving and decision making in their analysis of issues and suggested solutions.
6. Learners discuss solutions and create powerpoint materials that display proposed strategies.

