

A planet under pressure

WebQuest Description: This webquest main purpose is to make students aware of environmental problems

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum: Professional Skills

Keywords: environment, global warming, alternative sources of energy

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION What type of pressure is the planet being affected by? As an introduction to this topic we will be viewing Yann Arthus-Bertrand's documentary "Home" in class.

Tasks

TASK You are a scientist who has been assigned by all the nations of the world to work with other scientists to investigate and solve our environmental problems: pollution, energy, food, biodiversity, climate change, water. You will research the problem you are assigned to and then provide at least three solutions for it. Your final assignment is the production and presentation of a document in Power Point giving account of your conclusions. Make sure you have viable solutions that can be implemented to make a real difference.

Process

PROCESS Divide the class into six groups. **ACTIVITY 1:** Gather some facts Go to the bottom of this page and download the "Exercise A" and "Exercise B" documents. They were designed to provide some background information and terminology on environmental problems. **ACTIVITY 2:** Research Here you will visit a number of websites published by a number of different organizations involved in the environmental problems issue. Choose one of the six areas where most experts agree that a crisis is emerging. Research the problem you've chosen and then provide at least three solutions for it. <http://news.bbc.co.uk> <http://video.nationalgeographic.com> Directions to video: go to videos by category; click VIEW ALL by environment link; click ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS, CLIMATE CHANGE (on the right hand side), GLOBAL WARMING; <http://www.liveearth.org> www.greenworld.org **ACTIVITY 3:** Final assignment For this activity, you will use the evidence and information you've collected in the previous activities and produce a Power Point presentation. Don't forget to provide at least three possible solutions for the problem you've studied.

Evaluation

Category and Score	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Accomplished 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Individual contribution	Poor Did not contribute any information or ideas with the group	Fair Shared some ideas with the group and displayed a positive attitude some of the time	Good Shared several ideas with the group and displayed a positive attitude most of the time	Great Shared useful ideas with the group and displayed a positive attitude the whole time	%30
Content of Power Point document	Poor Topic is not fully covered	Fair Covers topic in superficial manner	Good Topic is covered	Great Topic is covered in depth	%40
Oral presentation of Power Point document	Poor Presentation is not organized Terms and concepts are not clarified for the audience	Fair Presentation needs work with its organization Some terms and concepts are not clarified for the audience	Good Presentation is organized Terms are clarified for the audience	Great Presentation is highly organized Terms and concepts are fully clarified	%30
				Total Score	%100

Conclusion

CONCLUSION CONGRATULATIONS! Now you know more about environmental threats and you are aware of some viable solutions that can be implemented to make a real difference. By doing this webquest you have cooperated with your mates to develop technological and research skills. The Internet can be a valuable source to do it.

Teacher Page

Focus: The objective of this webquest is to help students learn about environmental threats and make them aware of some viable solutions. **Objectives/Goals:** I would recommend starting this project with the exhibition of the documentary "Home". This way, the students will have some background knowledge and they should be able to take this project further than without any previous knowledge. **Resources:** Prerequisite Skills: Comfort level with the Internet. **Time Required:** 3+1 day- 3 days for lessons and preparation (45 minutes each) and 1 day for presentation day. **Technology Needs/Materials Needed:** Since students will be working in groups, it is not necessary for each student to have a computer, but each group must have one accessible well as the WebQuest. **Credits:** The resources and web links included on this website are external websites and I would like to thank them for creating such useful WebPages.

Standards

Credits

Other