

MULTIMEDIA SOCIAL STUDIES 10 PROJECT:

Exploring the impact of human activity on the environment

Whether it is immediately visible or not, nearly every human activity leaves its mark on the environment. The effect of these *cultural landscapes* can be positive or negative. For example, when the Tsimshian First Nations removed barks from standing trees to make blankets, clothing, and fishing nets, they practiced *sustainability* that helped maintain an *ecological balance* by avoiding the depletion of a natural resource. Later, as European settlers arrived, the physical environment underwent dramatic alterations as the forest was cleared for timber and to build roads and buildings. Over the past 200 years, the world has become more industrialized and burned massive amounts of fossil fuels, which then trapped greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The *greenhouse effect* is now seen as the cause of the overall warming of the earth's climate. The rise in temperature is being seen in all parts of Canada, and each year brings more evidence of the effects of *climate change*, especially in the Arctic region.

The goal of this project is to have you explore a topic related to the impact human activity has had on our environment. You can choose something that happened in past history or something more recent. Below are some suggestions:

RECYCLING
AIR POLLUTION
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY
OVER-FISHING
BULK WATER EXPORT
OFF SHORE DRILLING
LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES
DEFORESTATION
OVER-FARMING
SALMON FARMS
BOTTLED WATER CONTROVERSY
AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

CLIMATE CHANGE
ALBERTA OIL SANDS
ENDANGERED SPECIES
WATER POLLUTION
MINING
ANIMAL CONSERVATION

1. You must first start by coming up with a focused research question. For example, if you choose climate change, you can ask the question "What evidence can we find that climate change is damaging our environment?". Or you may want to set a different focus by asking "What can we do to lessen the effects of climate change?".
2. Once you have a focused question, you will need to address three key components of research:
 - What do I already know about the question?
 - What do I need to find out?
 - Where can I find what I need?
3. Gather information. You can gather them from books, articles, documents, photographs, the Internet, and many other sources. Make sure you keep a record of references for your bibliography.

4. Assess and evaluate sources. All sources have points of view. You may need to assess how accurate their material is.
5. Organize information. There are several ways to organize information – file cards, notes, diagrams, etc.
6. Present the information using one or more of the following multimedia:
 - PowerPoint or AppleWorks
 - Video or DVD
 - still images
 - animation
 - audio

Evaluation will be as follows:

CONTENT (Please consult AP Rubric)	
Research Notes	20
Finished product (Focus, Organization, Clarity, Support)	20
CREATIVITY (Style, Originality)	35
CONVENTIONS (Grammar, Layout, Timing, Bibliography)	<u>25</u>
	100

This project is due: _____