

FACILITATOR GUIDE: Earth Faces Serious Problem!

GRADE: 9th-12th

CONCEPTS & SKILLS:

- Identify and define authentic, real-world problems and significant questions for investigation.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- Access to: [Education World, Earth Day Web Quest](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson307.shtml)
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson307.shtml
This lesson is located at Education World.com. It is a multi-day web quest that can be adapted to a shorter period of time by selecting tasks to suit a shorter research period.
- Access to Internet and/or library resources
- Miscellaneous art supplies
- Web Quest Internet Resources
- *What is the Most Serious Problem Facing Earth? Web Quest* work sheets

PRESENTATION:

Many things threaten the Earth; pollution, destruction, energy depletion, and overflowing landfills threaten the environment. Student research teams will work together and build a case for the most serious environmental problem on Earth.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Access *What Is the Most Serious Problem Facing Earth?* on Education World at the link listed in the materials section.
Student research teams should include: a note-taker, an essayist, an editor, a graphic artist, and a presenter. Each role is critical to building the team's case for most important Earth problem; all students should be active investigators and team players.
2. As a class, make a list of what students think are the most serious environmental problems facing Earth and within the community. (Air & water quality within the community, loss of habitat, etc..) Discuss the relationship between the problems and population and the use of natural resources and the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources.
 - Air pollution
 - Energy depletion
 - Overflowing landfills
 - Rain forest destruction
 - Vanishing species
 - Water pollution
3. Students share what they know about these problems. Students will vote on which they think is the most serious problem (keep the tally).
4. Assign groups of students to an environmental issue. These groups will be responsible for presenting the case at the end of the research period.
5. Follow the research steps for each day, or shorten the research time, on the website listed above.
Resources for the web quest issues are listed here:
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson307b.shtml
The task sheet for each group is listed here:
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson307WS.pdf
6. At the end of the research period, each group presents the case for their designated environmental issue.
7. After each group has presented their case, perform a secret ballot on which issue is the most serious Earth problem. Compare to the original vote.
8. This exercise can be used to help decide a service project.

TIME:

3-4 hours

PROCESSING THROUGH THE SIX PILLARS:

WHAT HAPPENED?

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SO WHAT?

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NOW WHAT?

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