



Theme: Water (grades 9-12)

Sub Theme: Global Issues Awareness

Pre-Visit Activity #2: Global Issues

Overview:

There are numerous discussions about environmental issues in the media, the biggest of which is global warming. There is now overwhelming scientific consensus that the earth is warming up and it is human-induced. Many agree that climate change may be one of the greatest threats facing the planet. With global warming on the increase and species and their habitats on the decrease, chances for ecosystems to adapt naturally are diminishing. Recent years show increasing temperatures in various regions, and/or increasing extremities in weather patterns. In this lesson, students will examine what governments around the world are doing to solve global environmental issues.

Objectives:

- Introduce students to the concept of global awareness.
- Students will examine 2008 G8 Summit Topics.
- Students will think critically and make logical points regarding global issues.
- Students will understand how local environmental issues affect the global environment.

Materials:

- The article, "G8 Summit in Italy Ends With Food Aid Pledge to Poor Nations"
- Pen or pencil
- Paper
- Computer with internet access

Background:

Students will be assigned to read an article that was written after the G8 Summit in July of 2009. Each year, global leaders meet for the G8 Summit. This is an unofficial forum which annually brings together the heads of the richest industrialized countries: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Russia and the President of the

European Commission. A number of global issues are discussed and decisions are made concerning those problems. In 2009, global warming was a major topic of discussion.

The article is called "G8 Summit in Italy Ends With Food Aid Pledge to Poor Nations". Commitments to food security and to decrease global warming were among the highlights of the meeting of the G8 in Italy. The article discusses environmental topics examined by top world leaders and the plans that were implemented during the annual summit. Students will be asked to read and review the article. Additionally, they will choose a topic from or relating to the article about which they will form and defend a viewpoint. They will research and find another article to support their topic. Students will then write and present a paper about their chosen environmental issue and how it relates to their local environment.

Activity:

1. Students will read the article "G8 Summit in Italy Ends With Food Aid Pledge to Poor Nations" in its entirety.
2. Students will take notes on key points that they find of interest and could possibly use to explore further.
3. Students will then choose a topic based on the key points they have extrapolated from the article.
4. They will then examine their idea further by using the internet to find a recent article that discusses their topic of interest.
5. Once students choose their support article, they will write a paper that includes the following:
 - An introduction paragraph that clearly states, the topic that they are going to discuss.
 - One or two paragraphs summarizing the G8 Summit Article.
 - One or two paragraphs summarizing the article that supports the environmental topic.
 - Two to three paragraphs explaining the reasoning as to why the article supports their opinion.
 - One paragraph that relates the current issue to local issues or concerns about the environment.
 - One paragraph that explains how their issue could be or is affected by lack of clean water or how the global water supply affects their issue.
 - One conclusion paragraph that summarizes the paper.

Presentation:

1. Once the paper is complete, students will prepare a presentation.
2. The presentation should be between 8 and 10 minutes.
3. Students will state their topic.

4. Students will discuss their supporting article.
5. Students will answer at least 3 questions from the audience regarding their specific issue.

Assigned Article:

“G8 Summit in Italy Ends With Food Aid Pledge to Poor Nations”

<http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2009-07/2009-07-10-voa3.cfm?CFID=316741185&CFTOKEN=75999394&jsessionid=84309cb64b59e7baf0f24659261b12b75351>