



Ecological Footprint



This lesson will increase student awareness of the area around us and teach a sense of responsibility to the environment.

BACKGROUND:

The Ecological Footprint measurement is the easiest way an individual can visually and numerically see the impact they personally make on the planet. It allows the individual to see the amount of resources he or she consumes on a day to day basis. It measures your Ecological Footprint according to the human activities done then calculates the land and water required to produce the goods consumed and to assimilate the wastes generated.

MATERIALS:

- Computer
- Access to the internet
- Paper
- Writing materials



PROCEDURE:

- Have students log on to a computer
- Ask them to visit the website: <http://www.earthday.org/take-action/footprint-calculator>
- Before they get started, have them make predictions of the outcome of their results
- Have them complete the Ecological Footprint calculator
- After they obtain the results, have them write a second paragraph on their actual results.
- Have them reflect on their own first.
- Optional: Encourage them to persuade other family members or friends to calculate their carbon footprint.
- Optional: Find the family member or friend who has the smallest Ecological Footprint as well as the person who has the largest Ecological Footprint.
- What activities have contributed to their results?

CONCLUSION:

Have students create an action plan to employ new ways to reduce their ecological footprint and their use of natural resources.

Learn more at:

