Social Responsibility: Your Ecological Footprint

Go to: <https://royalsaskmuseum.ca/rsm/visit/exhibits/life-sciences-gallery/the-human-factor>

Click on What is an Ecological Footprint? Answer the following questions:

1. What does your ecological footprint represent?

My ecological footprint represents the land and water it takes to provide us with the things we use and to absorb our wastes.

1. Why is knowing your ecological footprint useful?

Knowing my ecological footprint is useful because they account for decisions, we (as an individual to a human population) make about food, shelter, mobility, and goods and services.

Go back to the main page – Click on Calculate Your Footprint – Take the quiz!

(Use the site <http://www.fueleconomy.gov> to help calculate your MPG for you or your parent’s vehicle)

3) Your ecological footprint is? 7 Hectares

4) The average Canadian’s footprint is? 6.9 Hectares

Click on How Does This Compare to People in Other Countries? Answer the following:

5) What three countries have the highest ecological footprint?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| USA | Canada | Australia |

6) What three countries have the lowest ecological footprint

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bangladesh | Pakistan | India |

7) Why do you think this is?

I think this is the case because since USA, Canada, and Australia are big countries, and not super overpopulated, therefore they are clean countries with clean water and land. I think that Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India are really dirty because they don’t have clean water, lots of people are living in slums and sometimes it can be the overpopulation of what they’re doing causing the pollution.

Click on How Many Earths Do We Need? – Answer the following questions:

8) How many earths would we need if everyone had your ecological footprint? 3.7 Hectares

9) How many earths do we have? (not a trick question): We have 1 Earth

YOU DO THE MATH!!

10) Describe one thing that you learned during this activity

Something I learned during this activity was the countries with the highest ecological footprint to the ones with the lowest like Canada, USA, and Australia where India, Bangladesh and Pakistan have the lowest ecological footprint.

“Anything else you’re interested in is not going to happen if you can’t breathe the air and drink the water. Don’t sit this one out. Do Something.”

Some Ideas About How to Reduce Your Footprint

Goods & Services:

* Say no to plastic bags
* Recycle your zip-lock bags
* Go out of your way to recycle everything possible!
* Hang your laundry up to dry instead of throwing it in the dryer
* Switch to e-bills for one of your bank cards
* Use a refillable water bottle instead of buying one

Food:

* Choose a vegetarian meal over one with meat
* Avoid purchasing disposable items with lots of packaging
* Buy local, organic food

Shelter:

* Have a shorter shower! Try to cut one minute out each time
* Turn off all lights that aren’t in use
* Turn the heat down at night
* Switch the lights to compact fluorescent bulbs/energy efficient bulbs

Mobility:

* Walk, bike, bus or carpool as often as possible
* Do not let the car idle for more than 30 seconds. Burns more gas.
* Purchase carbon credits (climatefriendly.com) – check it out.