

Environmental Science Connection

Feral Hogs Feral hogs are descendants of domesticated hogs that escaped captivity. Feral hogs are able to survive in many ecosystems due to the lack of natural predators and their diverse foraging habits. Feral hogs change abiotic factors in ecosystems, such as soil structure and levels of erosion. They also change biotic factors in ecosystems, such as disrupting native plant communities and competing for resources with organisms in similar niches.

 Using library and Internet resources, research the feral hog epidemic in the United States. Create a public service announcement that will inform landowners about the scale of the feral hog epidemic and the potential impacts to the environment, including changes to populations and ecosystems.

FIGURE 1: Feral hogs can change ecosystems.



Art Connection

Conservation Photography Have you ever heard the saying, “A picture is worth a thousand words”? Conservation photographers embrace this statement when they use pictures to highlight environmental problems. Candid and staged images are used to invoke a response in the public and to advocate for conservation outcomes. When devastating changes in ecosystems are documented in visual ways, it can strengthen public support and involvement in critical environmental issues.

 What is the difference between nature photography and conservation photography? Using library and Internet resources, research the field of conservation photography and the work of a particular conservation photographer. Prepare a multimedia presentation that explains the purpose of conservation photography and introduces a photographer you researched, selections of his or her work, and explanations of the conservation issues that the photographer highlights.

FIGURE 2: This photograph could be used to highlight the impact of global warming on polar bear populations.



Social Studies Connection

Environmental History Human impacts on the environment during the last several centuries have been extensively studied and documented. It is clear that humans have changed and destabilized many modern ecosystems. There is also evidence that ancient peoples, such as the Maya, the Nazca, and the Rapa Nui of Easter Island, changed the landscape in dramatic ways. These changes may not have been on the scale of modern human impacts, but the changes may have resulted in destabilization of ecosystems that led to the downfall of these civilizations.

 Using library and Internet resources, research an example of an ancient society whose collapse may be linked to human impacts on the environment. Write a report that provides a brief background on the civilization and evaluates the claims and evidence that the environmental changes led to the disappearance of the society. Include an illustration of the potential impacts the society had on the environment with a model, graph, map, or other method.

FIGURE 3: Ruins of the Mayan Civilization.

