

Discussion Questions

Slide 1

- How do people impact the natural environment?
- How does the natural environment affect people and help them make choices?
- What role do natural resources play in shaping people's decisions and actions?

Slide 29

- Can you think of any examples of technology's impact on the environment?

Slide 37

- Think about the ways in which people react to changes in their environment. For example, how do people cope with drought, extreme cold, or insect/rodent infestations?

Slide 38

- How do you think overuse of the environment can affect people's ability to live and work in a place?
- Overharvesting of forests depletes trees more rapidly than they can be replenished. How do you think this affects the lives of people who live in or near the forest or who rely on its products?
- Can you think of other examples of overuse?

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- What role might the environment play in determining where people settle and conduct business?
- What features of the natural environment encouraged or discouraged early settlers from establishing homes in your region?
- What factors might attract you to or keep you from a place today?

Slide 53

- Some countries or regions rely almost exclusively on particular natural resources for their economic stability and growth. What do you think might be some challenges for these places?
- What might happen if the natural resource became depleted or if difficulties arose in the ability to distribute or sell that resource?

Slide 63

- Imagine how your life would differ if you did not live in a home hooked up to the electrical grid and to gas lines. What types of energy would you use to heat your home and to operate appliances?

Slide 64

- What would our society be like today without the energy sources we take for granted? What if there were no coal, oil, or natural gas to heat our homes, fuel our ovens, propel our cars, and power our electrical plants?
- Do you think we would live the same lifestyles as we do today?
- What types of alternate energy sources might we use?

Slide 74

- Think about activities that you do or are familiar with. Which ones are more environmentally sustainable?
- Which of your favorite activities might be more damaging to the environment than others?
- Can you think of ways to make these activities more sustainable while still enjoying them?