

Extension Activities

1. Draw a map of your town or print one from the Internet. Label at least three places in town where humans have had a particularly significant impact (either positive or negative) on the environment. Write captions that describe the impacts, explaining how the positive impacts benefit the environment and suggesting ways in which to lessen the negative impacts.
2. Research types of crops grown in three different parts of the world (for example, the American “heartland,” the Peruvian mountains, and central India). Also, research precipitation and temperatures in these regions. Find out why these crops are grown so abundantly in these areas, and try to determine how much these agricultural practices have to do with climate and precipitation versus traditions and cultural tastes. Create a poster or multimedia presentation that illustrates your findings.
3. Hold a class debate on the pros and cons of nuclear energy. One side should argue in favor of increasing nuclear energy use in the United States, while the other side should argue for eliminating or significantly reducing nuclear energy use. This project will require Internet and/or library research. As an alternative, write an essay assessing arguments for and against nuclear energy, and then conclude by giving your own opinion on the issue.
4. Use the Internet to find out more about renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal power. Investigate the environmental advantages and disadvantages of each one, and find out which types of alternate energy, if any, your local utilities offer. Write a report on your findings.
5. Research the types of materials that your local recycling facility accepts. What types of plastic does it take? Does it accept cardboard or phone books? If possible, arrange an interview with someone from the facility or the city’s public works department so that you can learn more about the recycling process in your town. Why have they chosen to accept certain materials and not to accept others? How efficient is the recycling process? Where do the materials go in order to be processed into other products? Find out as much as you can, then create a poster showing the route the materials take through all the steps of the recycling process.