

Extension Activities

1. Research a historical event whose outcome was determined at least in part by geographical factors. Draw one picture illustrating what happened. Draw another picture showing how things might have gone differently under different geographical circumstances. Write captions for each picture.
2. Imagine that you've been placed in charge of determining the location of a new sewage treatment facility for your town. Analyze a town map to find two or three promising locations. Explain in a paragraph the pros and cons of setting the treatment facility in each location. As an option, conduct some research into sewage treatment facilities to find out more about ideal locations. You might also want to interview an employee at your town's sewage treatment facility to learn about its history, why it's located where it is, and to obtain more information about good alternate locations.
3. Want a career in the movies? One thing you can do is become a location manager. Imagine that you're a location manager for next summer's big blockbuster. Your job is to scout out the best places to film the scene where the bad guys will meet their demise at the hands of the aliens from Galaxy X (or, if you're not into sci-fi, at the hands of a killer tornado). Think about places around your town or in its environment that might be good for this scene. List at least three places, sketch their pictures with a scene from the movie, and write a paragraph explaining the pros and cons of each one. Finish by making your final decision and explain it in a paragraph.
4. Survey your classmates and/or relatives to find out what they think the role of American national parks should be. Ask questions to find out whether they feel the national parks should be primarily preserved as wilderness areas, open to as many people and uses as possible, or something in between. Write a brief report explaining your findings, and discuss it as a class.
5. Conduct research to help predict the impact of our current level of natural resource use on the environment for future generations. What do you think the planet will be like in 50 years? In 100 years? In 1000 years? Also, hypothesize what the world would be like if we are able to make major changes in our current levels of resource use, either by conserving, using different types of resources, or developing new technologies that use current resources more efficiently. Give an oral report on your prediction, or write a brief essay explaining what you think will happen.