

INTERNATIONAL ISSUE #2: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT



The actions we take as humans effect our environment. Furthermore, the actions that one nation takes may effect the environment in other nations across the globe. Things like pollution, energy waste, deforestation and are not just issues in the United States, they are **global** issues.

Step 1: Turn to page 5 and fill out the KWL Chart for Issue #2 (you only need to do the K column, the L column, and the "Opinion-Meter" question). As a group, share your answers.

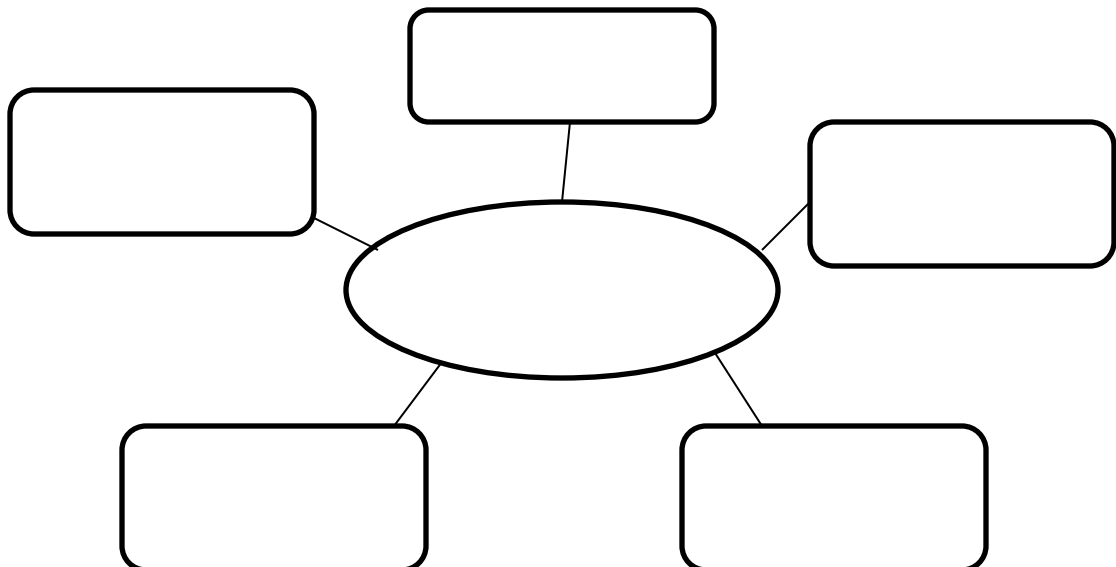
Tip: The "Opinion-Meter" question asks whether the environment or the economy is more important in developing countries. For instance, would it be more important for a developing country to create jobs by building a new factory, or to protect the environment by limiting the amount of factories a town can have?

Developing Countries: Countries that have a relatively low standard of living (usually a higher percentage of homelessness, poverty, and starvation). The country is still growing and facing these challenges.

Economy: The financial system in a certain place. In general, it is how people use their resources (including money) to meet their needs.

Environment: The natural area in which a something lives.

For our Election Unit, we will be looking at the issue of pollution, and its effects. In the word web below, write "Littering," "Water Pollution" OR "Air pollution" in the center and think of as many effects as you can.



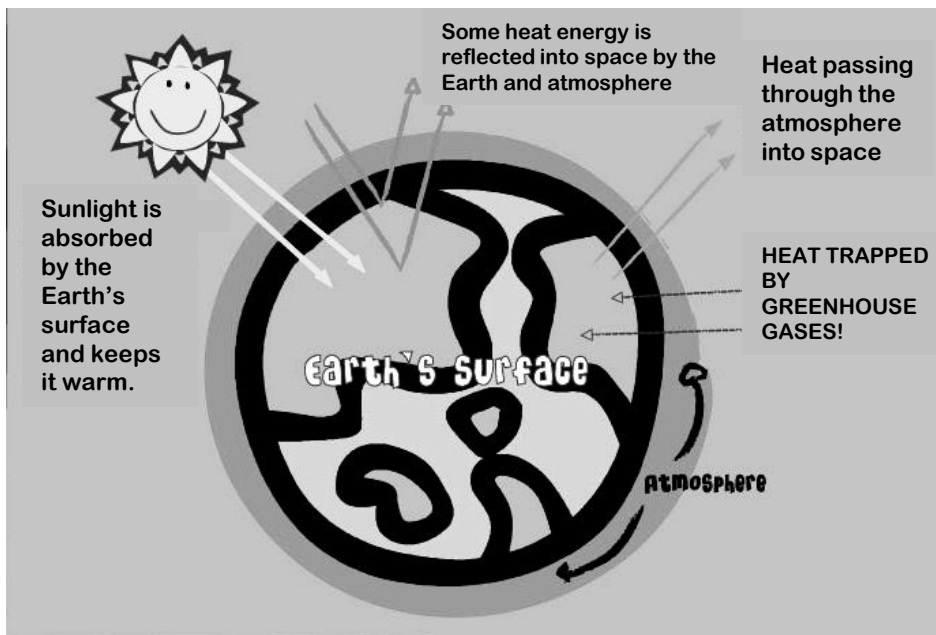
Step 2: Read "Earth's Dwindling Resources" and answer the following questions:

- 1) Scientists believe that unless we take action, _____% of coral reefs in the world will be destroyed within 40 years. Why are coral reefs so important?
- 2) About how many people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water?
- 3) How many children die each week because they don't have clean drinking water?
- 4) According to WHO, what percentage of people are exposed to unsafe air each day?
- 5) According to WHO, how many children die each year from diseases related to unsafe air?

Step 3: Read about Global Warming:

Q: What causes global warming?

A: Carbon dioxide and other air pollution that is collecting in the atmosphere like a thickening blanket, trapping the sun's heat and causing the planet to warm up. Coal-burning power plants are the largest U.S. source of carbon dioxide pollution -- they produce 2.5 billion tons every year. Automobiles, the second largest source, create nearly 1.5 billion tons of CO₂ annually.



Because of the Greenhouse effect, **heat gets trapped on the Earth's surface** (instead of being able to pass through the atmosphere). The Greenhouse effect creates a layer of gases that heat can't get through.

How do greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide) effect the Earth's climate? (one sentence)

Children are agents of change

"A child, who learns about good hygiene practices early, adopts them easily, and it also means that, in the future, we won't need to invest in changing the unhealthy behaviors of the adults, as we do today," said Mamdou Oury Bah, a health and sanitation expert for UNICEF.

Just a few drops of chlorine solution can disinfect an entire bucket of water, and curb the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera. Health and education work in synergy (work together), and improved hygiene practices will curb the spread of disease and ease the burdens on children. This in turn will enable increased attendance in schools and an increased ability to learn. Such safeguarding of cognitive development allows children's opportunities to expand.

More than one in seven children under five die each year in Guinea, many from diseases caused by the lack of hygiene and the poor quality of water. To meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, UNICEF aims to reduce by two thirds the mortality of children under five.

1) Where is Nairobi?

2) Why is Africa such an important place when thinking about water improvement?

3) How many cases of disease are caused each year due to poor sanitation, poor hygiene, and unsafe water?

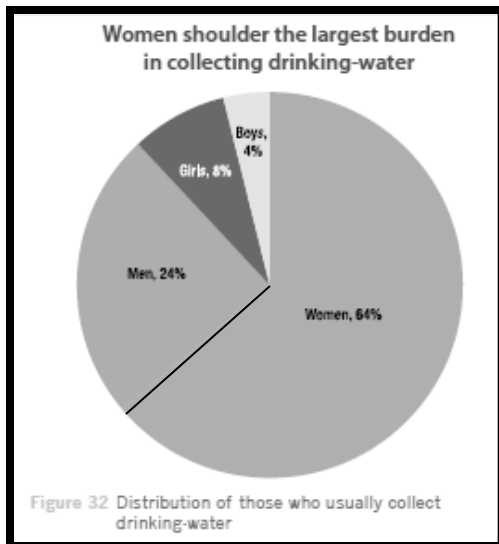
4) How many deaths are caused each year worldwide due to poor sanitation, poor hygiene, and unsafe water?

5) What does education have to do with improving the conditions of drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation?

6) What is UNICEF's goal by 2015?

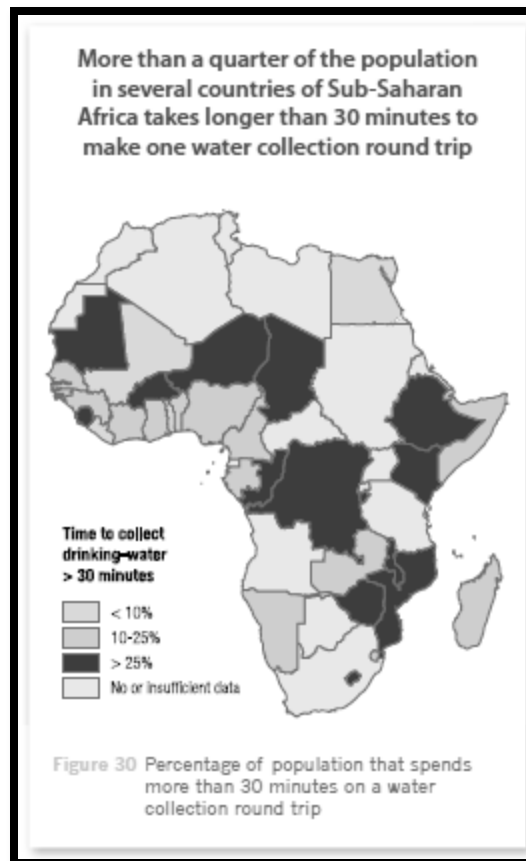
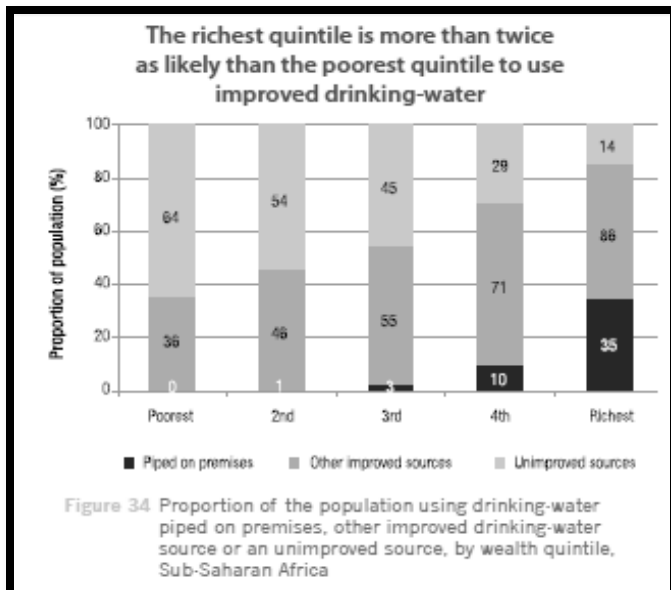


Drinking Water Statistics



The need for clean drinking water is greatest in African countries and Asian countries.

The United Nations puts forth a list of the least developed countries. On that list, 34 are African countries, 10 are countries in the Asian continent such as Afghanistan and Cambodia. Five countries were from the Pacific region, and one was from the Caribbean (Haiti).



TEN POOREST COUNTRIES (based on National GDP measurements)

1. Timor-Leste (South-East Asia)
2. Malawi (Africa)
3. Somalia (Africa)
4. Congo (Africa)
5. Tanzania (Africa)
6. Yemen (Asia [Middle East])
7. Burundi (Africa)
8. Afghanistan (Asia [Middle East])
9. Guinea-Bissau (Africa)
10. Ethiopia (Africa)

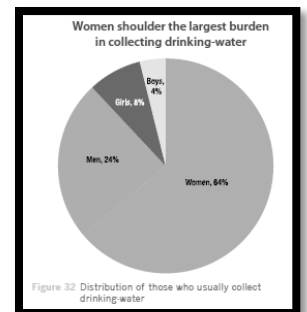
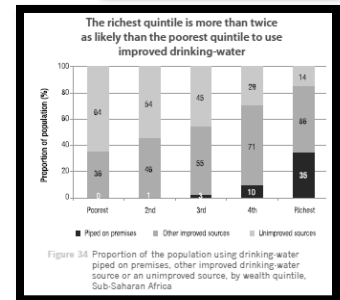
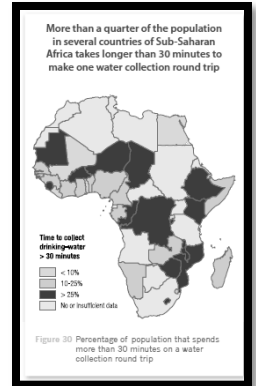
Drinking Water - Questions

Draw three lines to match each paragraph with the graph that it relates to. Look at the graphs on the front of the sheet to examine the data they show.

A comparison between the richest and poorest 20 per cent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa reveals that **the richest are more than twice as likely to use an improved drinking-water source** and almost five times more likely to use improved sanitation facilities.

Unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene claim the lives of an estimated 1.5 million children under the age of five each year. Lack of access to water, sanitation and hygiene affects the health, security, livelihood and quality of life for children, **impacting women and girls first and most.**

Despite an overall improvement in the coverage of water supply between 1990 and 2002, **the vast majority of Africa's population will continue to rely on unsafe water sources**, which are exposed to increasing contamination and pollution as a result of the continent's inadequate water policies.



What connection do you see between poorest countries, and the countries that need clean water the most? Why do you think this connection exists?
