

HUMAN POPULATIONS

Annotated Bibliography of K-12 Educational Resources

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (07/08)

The following list consists of selected resources on the general topic of Human Populations. All materials are available for loan at the WCEE Resources Library. Many more resources on this and other related topics are also available. Please call or visit the WCEE for assistance and/or additional information.

Teaching Activity Guides

Teaching Global Sustainability in the Primary Grades by Facing the Future, Seattle, WA. (2007).
A guide to help younger learners understand concepts on sustainability. It contains four very nice activities you can do.

Grade levels: K-4 Length: 4 lessons, 64 pages WCEE call number: AC SU 7

Counting on People by Zero Population Growth, Washington, DC. (1994).

Similar to Sharing a Small World but covering more topics and appropriate for older students. Very usable format. Also includes reproducible student worksheets.

Grade levels: K-6 Length: 30 lessons, 147 pages WCEE call number: AC HP 11

Multiplying People, Dividing Resources edited by Nikos Boutis and Pamela Wasserman.
Population Connection, Washington, DC. (2002).

Helps explain population concepts through math activities, in turn helping make math activities more relevant by using “real life” examples.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 30 activities, 189 pages WCEE call number: AC HP 16 2

People and the Planet: Lessons for a Sustainable Future by Zero Population Growth,
Washington, DC. (1996).

Explores a student’s relationship “to the natural environment and to other members of the global family.” Includes four student readings as well as reproducible worksheets. Addresses many of the established goals of environmental education.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 30 activities, 189 pages WCEE call number: AC HP 16

Engaging Students Through Global Issues by Facing the Future, Seattle, WA. (2006).

A really nice activity guide correlated to standards in various subjects. The guide has several activities for engaging students in global environmental issues.

Grade levels: 5-12 Length: 40 activities, 264 pages WCEE call number: AC SU 8

Population: Issues, Impacts, and Solutions by Facing the Future, Lopez Island, WA. (2000).

Includes a set of sample classroom activities (brief descriptions) and a more detailed set of “classroom illustrations”. Many reproducible pages. Though it is a brief activity guide, it still covers many of the important concepts related to human population.

Grade levels: 5-12 Length: 64 pages WCEE call number: AC HP 17

Building Bridges: A Peace Corps Classroom Guide to Cross-Cultural Understanding by Paul D. Coverdell Worldwide Schools, Washington D.C. (2003).

The lessons in this workbook will help students better understand their own culture and how it has shaped them, to understand the perspectives of other cultures, leading to increased respect for those who are different in the classroom and worldwide.

Grade levels: 5-12 Length: 13 lessons, 47 pages WCEE call number: AC HP 18

Voices from the Field: Reading and Writing about the World, Ourselves, and Others by Paul D. Coverdell Worldwide Schools, Washington D.C. (2003).

This publication includes stories written by Peace Corps volunteers about their experiences abroad. Curriculum unit which contains language arts lessons, for increasing students reading comprehension and writing skills.

Grade levels: 5-12 Length: 186 pages WCEE call number: AC HP 15

Commons: An Environmental Dilemma, The by Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, Colorado Springs, CO. (2001).

Though focusing on more on the general environmental concerns (natural resource use), the foundation of this book is the seminal publication on population, "The Tragedy of the Commons" by Garret Hardin. A combination of activity guide and (student) CD-ROM.

Grade levels: 7-12 Length: 210 pages WCEE call number: COM EG 2

Earth Matters: Studies for Our Global Future by Zero Population Growth, Washington, DC. (1991).

Organizes activities around 13 student readings. Topics include energy issues, education of women, population dynamics, food and hunger, and more. Usable format.

Grade levels: 9-12 Length: 32 activities, 177 pages WCEE call number: AC EG 28

Videos

Popular Little Planet, A by Children's Television Workshop, Lincoln, NE. (1992).

A 3-2-1 Contact special that deals with the population. Slightly dated, but kid-hosted and informative. Includes a very effective visual demonstration of exponential growth using ping-pong balls.

Grade levels: K-6 Length: 30 minutes WCEE call number: AV HP 2

World Population by Population Connection, Washington, DC. (2000).

A classic visual demonstration of the progression of human population/exponential growth. Highly recommended.

Grade levels: 4-12 Length: 7 minutes WCEE call number: AV HP 1

Jam Packed: The Challenge of Human Overpopulation by The Video Project, Ben Lomand, CA. (1997).

Hosted by Alexandra Paul of "Baywatch" fame, which may not be an effective draw at this point. Yet does cover many important population-related issues and includes student commentaries. Teacher's guide also provided.

Grade levels: 5-12 Length: 29 minutes WCEE call number: AV HP 7

The Eyes of Nye: Population by Disney Educational Productions, Elk Grove Village, IL. (2005).
Learn how social, cultural, educational, and industrial aspects affect human population, the Third World, human consumption, and what mass media's role is.
Grade levels: 9-12 Length: 24 minutes WCEE call number: AV DVD HP 1

World in the Balance: The Population Paradox by Linda Harrar, NOVA and Linda Harrar Productions. (2004).
This is a global snapshot of today's human family. It shows several case studies from Japan, Europe, and Russia.
Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 120 minutes WCEE call number: AV DVD HP 2

China Rises by Discovery Communications, Inc. (2006).
A four-part series portraying the triumphs and disappointments of an expanding China, including the problems with urban development, poverty, and water pollution.
Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 208 minutes WCEE call number: AV DVD HP 4

Books for Youth

Common Ground: The Water, Earth, and Air We Share by Molly Bang. Blue Sky Press, New York, NY. (1997).
Fiction. A story that brings the principles and concepts of Garrett Hardin's famous paper "The Tragedy of the Commons" to a younger audience. Connects overpopulation to problems with resource use. A great resource for initiating class discussions. Wonderful illustrations.
Grade levels: K-9 Length: 34 pages WCEE call number: BY PH 20

Our Endangered Planet: Population Growth by Suzanne Winckler and Mary Rodgers. Lerner Publications, Minneapolis, MN. (1991).
Non-fiction. A student text that provides a good introduction to most of the issues and proposed solutions to population problems. Includes resource list and glossary.
Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 64 pages WCEE call number: BY HP 1

Population of the World edited by Scott Morris. Chelsea House Publishers, New York, NY. (1993).
Non-fiction. An atlas that provides a very good visual representation of population distributions, pressures, etc. The statistics are somewhat dated, but the concepts are well-presented.
Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 47 pages WCEE call number: BY HP 4

Population: Detecting Bias by Neal Bernard. Greenhaven Press, San Diego, CA. (1992).
Non-fiction. A good resource for working with the upper-level EE goals, such as values clarification and citizen action skill building. Presents, in each section, one article each from opposing sides of a population-related issue.
Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 36 pages WCEE call number: BY HP 3

If the World Were a Village by David Smith, Kids Can Press, Toronto, ON. (2002).
Fiction. The book studies the dynamics of village of 100 people who proportionally represent the population of Earth. Through this it provides a unique way to discuss cultures, resource use, religions, and more. Highly recommended.
Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 32 pages WCEE call number: BY HP 6

Population by Don Nardo, Lucent Books, San Diego, CA. (1991).
Non-fiction. A student textbook dealing with population as it relates to developing and developed countries and the environment. Also discusses proposed solutions to population problems.
Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 95 pages WCEE call number: BY HP 2 4

Reference/Background Books

Material World by Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA. (1994).
An incredible book and CD-ROM that look at the possessions, values, and lifestyles of the people of the countries of the world. Great photography, excellent production. Highly recommended.
Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 255 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 31 and COM LS 1

Population: Issues, Impacts, and Solutions by John Goekler, Facing the Future: People and The Planet, Lopez Island, WA. (2001).
A relatively up-to-date resource covering many aspects of population issues. See also the related activity guide, for which this provides extensive background (AC HP 17).
Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 62 pages WCEE call number: BA HP 17

Women in the Material World by Faith D'Aluisio and Peter Menzel, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA. (1996).
A follow-up to Material World: A Global Family Portrait, this book focuses on women. It includes photographs, interviews, and anecdotes documenting the day-to-day lives and thoughts of women from 20 different countries.
Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 256 pages WCEE call number: BA LS 57

Misplaced Blame: The Real Roots of Population Growth by Alan Durning, Northwest Environment Watch, Seattle, WA. (1997).
A good resource for pursuit of more current views on the problems and causes associated with overpopulation. Good for infusing discussions of current events into the higher-level classroom.
Grade levels: Adult Length: Varies WCEE call number: BA HP 16

Who Will Feed China? And Full House by Lester Brown, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, NY. (1995 and 1994).
Published in the Worldwatch Environmental Alert Series, both these books explore the global challenges and concerns associated with world population growth. Good for infusing discussions of current events into the higher-level classroom.
Grade levels: Adult Length: Varies WCEE call number: BA HP 9 and 10

Population by Greenhaven Press, San Diego, CA. (2000).

A book in a series entitled "Opposing Viewpoints". A good resource for working with the upper-level EE goals, such as values clarification and citizen action skill building.

Grade levels: Adult Length: 224 pages WCEE call number: BA HP 18

State of the World 2003 by W.W. Norton & Company, New York, NY. (2003).

The WCEE has each of the yearly installments in this important series. Produced by the Worldwatch Institute, presents comprehensive analyses of current and pressing environmental problems while also discussing possible solutions. Very useful in studies of many environmental issues, including population.

Grade levels: Adult Length: 240 pages WCEE call number: SER SOW 2003

Websites

Redefining Progress www.rprogress.org and www.myfootprint.org

This site provides a number of ideas and curriculum for teachers particularly on how to teach about ecological footprints. It is a good way to talk about human population and the impacts.

Grades: K-12

Facing the Future www.facingthefuture.org

Materials created by Facing the Future use integrated concepts to help students think critically about environmental issues. They offer several curriculum guides downloadable online.

Grades: K-12

Population Connection www.populationconnection.org

On the education link there is information for teachers and teacher materials. This includes activities to use in the classroom. There is also links for teacher workshops. On the main page there is also informational fact sheets, access to various publications, information on legislation, and ways you can take action.

Grades: K-12

Global Footprint Network <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/>

This site gives an excellent detailed visual of our impact on the world through the choices we make. This also provides an excellent opportunity to see the areas where we have the biggest impacts on the world.

Grades: 6-adult

World Clock <http://www.chippynews.com/worldclock.htm>

This website is second-by-second tally of how the world changes - in population (death, illness), its energy usage (oil, coal, natural gas, gasoline, electricity), carbon dioxide emissions, environmental changes, crime, food, debt - even the number of Spam emails sent. It is an eye-awakening site!

Grades: 9-12