



Mercy Education
Educación de la Misericordia

Courageous Action. Selfless Spirit.™
Acción valiente. Espíritu altruista.™

Extractivism

Curriculum Guide for the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns

Extractivism: Definition

One of the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy is Earth. It is important that we all have the same vision of sustainability as every action impacts the future of all societies. Quoting St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis reminds us in Laudato Si' that it is Earth “‘ who sustains and governs us’” (1). Drawing from the work of Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Francis emphasizes “the ethical and spiritual roots of environmental problems, which require that we look for solutions not only in technology but in a change of humanity” (9).

[Learn more about our Critical Concern for Earth on the Sisters of Mercy website.](#)

Extractivism represents a development model with a limited vision of the future. It exploits natural resources, often at the expense of local communities.

Characteristics

- Genesis 1:31 says, “And God saw everything that he had made and behold, it was good.” Then in Genesis 1:28 and 2:15, God specifically commanded humankind to take care of the earth. Humankind has abused the earth and continues to do so at an alarming and rapid rate. It is our moral obligation to care for the earth, and so if we neglect, abuse, and continue to spoil the environment, we are damaging something that is precious to God.
- What we do to nature will affect us in some way, be it good or bad.
- Extractivism leads to displacement of communities and loss of cultural identity.
- The demand for large numbers of cheap labour has led to child abuse through the practice of child labour.
- One extractive industry, fracking, leads to serious issues such as earthquakes, soil erosion, and pollution of both air and water.
- Those who suffer the negative impact of extractivism are the poor and vulnerable.
- Extractivism is a development model anchored in an economic model that is based on the export of commodities.
- Extractivism is part of a transnational economic model.
- Extractivism is a model supported by science and economics to support a productive system immersed in the throw-away culture.
- The indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources is concentrated in the peripheries.
- Extractivism is based on the search for resources at the lowest possible cost without worrying about the way it impacts sister earth.

Essential questions

What relationship do we have with sister earth?

Do we consider the earth as a sister whom we must respect, or do we see it as a mere resource for our personal benefit?

Do we respect the cycles of the earth? Do we respect its times?

What impact does a system of production have on sister earth? Are there ways to produce that would be more earth friendly?

What relationship exists between the loss of biodiversity and extractivism?

Do natural resources have to keep up with rate of production?

Is garbage a serious consequence of the system of production? How much do we extract from the earth and then dispose of?

Is it natural to discard things? Why do we discard what we extract?

Is it necessary to continue extracting in order to keep production going?

Why is it the responsibility of people who are *discarded* to take care of waste? (poverty)

How does extractivism influence our culture? Is there a culture of extractivism?

Are there policies that are in line with the vision of Mercy?

Are there companies that carry out their activity in an earth-friendly manner?

Is there a relationship between extractivism and health, between extractivism and natural disasters?

How have developed countries contributed to the problems created by extractive industries?

What do we want our students to learn?

1. Sustainability of our natural resources
2. Waste management
3. Substitution - Producing and using safer products to replace those made from extractive industries

Lesson Plans and Links

Lesson with Link and Source	Lesson Topics	Strategies for approaching content and connecting with different subject areas	Connection with Core Values and Profile of the Graduate Attributes	Connection with Critical Concerns
<u>Care of the earth</u> Laudato Si Lesson Plans on Care for Earth: Extractives	Introduction to care of the earth Laudato Si	Social Studies / Geography- To evaluate human, ethical, social, cultural, and legal issues English Language- Reflective writing Religious Education- Used when looking at Creation.	Principled Leadership Inspired By Faith Ethical & Moral. Following a personal code based on Gospel values that guides action and choices.	Nonviolence Earth

<u>Extractive Industries</u> <u>Content</u> United Nations Extractive Industries and Conflict Extractive Industries: Optimizing Value Retention in Host Countries Case Study Republic of Congo <u>Videos</u> Extractive Industries <u>Activities</u> Extractives sector	Definition and classification of extractive industries What are extractives? 1. Fishing 2 Forestry 3. Mining: oil, natural gas, bauxite, copper limestone, sand gravels 4. Agriculture: Mono-culture Social Impact and Conflict	Social Studies/Geography- Used when looking at human relationships with the environment. History- When looking at Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Science- When looking at water quality, metals and minerals.	Compelled By Mercy Compassion. Having concern for the needs of all, including those outside our immediate circle. Responsibility to Serve. Fulfilling the duty to not just care about others, but to act on their behalf. A Voice for Dignity and Respect Inclusivity. Going beyond tolerance to embrace diversity, while accepting and serving with open arms.	Nonviolence Racism- Respecting every person for who they are. Immigration- No one should be forced from their home.
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<u>Fishing</u> <u>Lesson Plans</u> Lesson Plan: Sustainable Fishing <u>Content</u> Notes: Negative Effects of Fishing on the Environment <u>Videos</u> Aquaculture Movie-Seaspiracy Most Destructive Fishing Practices Ocean Alert: Over-Fishing <u>Articles</u> Aquaculture -A bad decision?	Types of fishing methods Aquaculture Impact on the environment Sustainable practices	Social Studies/Geography- Used when looking at human relationships with the environment. Business- When looking at types of primary industries and economic activities. Science- When looking at water quality, sound waves, pollution.	Educational Courage Critical Thinking. Gathering and objectively evaluating and analyzing information through reflection and reason. A Voice for Dignity and Respect Advocate. Being a forceful defender, supporter and sometimes spokesperson for the values and people we hold dear.	Nonviolence- As the population continues to grow animal cruelty increases in order to meet food demand. A need to respect all living things.
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<u>Activities</u> Activity 1: Small Group Discussion on Fishing (page 4)				
<u>Deforestation Lesson Plans</u> Carbon Cycle Poster Deforestation Lesson Plans Deforestation Research Assignment Deforestation and Climate Change <u>Content</u> What are the drivers of deforestation Powerpoints on Deforestation: 1 and 2	Impact of Agriculture Impact through mining Deforestation and climate change	Social Studies/Geography- When looking at migration, pollution, monoculture and soil erosion. When looking at greenhouse gasses and global warming. History- When looking at colonization in developing countries Science- When looking at water quality, air pollution.	Compelled By Mercy Empathy. Putting yourself in someone else's shoes to understand their feelings and perspectives. Educational Courage Critical Thinking. Gathering and objectively evaluating and analyzing information through reflection and reason.	Immigration- Citizens in a region have a right to live freely without forced relocation

<u>Videos</u> Why deforestation matters—and what we can do to stop it Preserving Our Forests: Solutions to Deforestation <u>Articles</u> The effects of extractive industries on deforestation in developing countries Extracted Forests <u>Activities</u> Quizzes on Deforestation: 1 2 3 (requires account)				
<u>Extractivism: General Ideas</u>	General ideas about extractivism Linear production	Allow an understanding of the concept of	Compelled By Mercy Compassion. Caring for the needs of	Earth- It highlights the problems of the indiscriminate exploitation of natural

<u>Lessons</u> <u>Actividades sobre extractivism para trabajar en clase</u> (Classroom activities about extractivism) <u>Videos</u> <u>Reflexiones acerca del extractivism en Argentina</u> (Reflections concerning extractivism in Argentina) <u>¿Qué es el extractivism?</u> <u>Greenpeace Argentina</u> (What is Extractivism? Greenpeace Argentina) <u>¿Extractivism a cualquier precio?</u> (Extractivism at what price?) <u>Home - La Earth. Documental Completo HD</u> (Earth our Home – complete documentary) <u>Empresas responsables</u>	system.	extractivism. Explain the different activities that encompass extractivism. Show the various environmental impacts that extractivism generates. Allows for a reflection concerning the negative consequences of extractivism in environmental and social terms. Shows a knowledge of the relationship between political and economic powers. This understanding can be useful in subjects such as Geography, Economics, Politics, Biology, Chemistry,	everyone, even those outside one's immediate circle. Empathy. Putting ourselves in the place of others in order to understand their feelings and perspective. Educational Courage Curiosity. Being open to other ways of seeing the world and exploring new ideas. Critical thinking. Objectively gather and evaluate information using reflection and reason. Inspired By Faith Ethical and moral. Following a personal code of ethics based on gospel values that	resources. Nonviolence- Shows the violent relationship that we have with our sister earth. Immigration- Shows the migration that is generated by the exploitation of natural resources
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y empresas no responsables - El Informe Kliksberg (Businesses responsible and those that are not responsible: Kliksberg Report) Economía Circular (Circular Economy)		Physics, and Construction of Citizenship, among others.	guide actions and decisions. Principled Leadership Integrity. Standing up for/ doing the right thing, even when it's difficult or unpopular.	
<u>Open pit mining: lime, gold and other metals</u> <u>Classes</u> Actividades para trabajar en clase. (Classroom activities) <u>Content</u> Glaciares en Argentina: Cielo cerrado a la minería a cielo abierto (Glaciers in Argentina and Pit closed on open pit mining) Impacto de la minería a cielo abierto	Open pit mining. Environmental impact on the extraction of minerals in open pit mining. Relationship between politics and the economy Legislation for the care of natural resources. The use of water. Corporate Social Responsibility.	Allows for a knowledge of the different problems that open pit mining carries with it. Demonstrates the environmental impact generated by open pit mining. It allows for a reflection on the negative consequences of open pit mining in environmental and social terms.	Compelled By Mercy Compassion. Caring for the needs of everyone, even those outside our immediate circle. Empathy. Putting ourselves in the place of others to understand their feelings and perspectives. Responsibility to serve. Fulfilling our obligation not only to care for others but also	Earth- It highlights the problems of the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources. Women- It shows the exclusion of women in the field of Mining. Nonviolence- It shows the violent relationship we have with our sister Earth. Immigration- It shows the migratory effect generated by the

(Impact of open pit mining) La salud de diez millones de peruanos está en riesgo por el envenenamiento del agua con sustancias tóxicas (Open pit mining in Peru) Mining y pueblos originarios en Colombia (Mining and indigenous peoples in Colombia) Expertos de la ONU piden cesar Mining (UN experts beg for a cessation of mining) <u>Videos</u> MegaMining en San Juan - CQC informe periodístico 1-2 MegaMining en San Juan - CQC informe periodístico 2-2 (2 part series by a journalist on mega mining in San Juan) Ambiente y Medio -		It allows for an understanding of the relationship between political and economic powers. It can be used in subjects such as Geography, Economics, Politics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Construction of Citizenship, among others.	to act in their name. Educational Courage Curiosity. Be open to other ways of seeing the world and exploring new ideas. Critical Thinking. Objectively collect and evaluate information through personal reflection and reason. Inspired By Faith Ethical and Moral. Following a personal code based on gospel values that guide one's actions and decisions. Principled Leadership Integrity. Standing up for or doing the right thing, even when it's difficult or unpopular.	exploitation of natural resources.
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<u>Minería a cielo abierto: ¿Desarrollo económico o devastación ambiental?</u> (News reports on mining as an economic advantage or environmental devastation) <u>Temor en Jáchal por el derrame de cianuro de la mina Veladero</u> (Fear in Jáchal due to the cyanide spill from the Veladero mine) <u>Polémica por un nuevo derrame de cianuro en Veladero - Informe Periodístico 1-2</u> <u>Polémica por un nuevo derrame de cianuro en Veladero - Informe Periodístico 2-2</u> (Controversy over a new cyanide spill in Veladero – 2 part report) <u>No todo lo que brilla es oro: Informe sobre Veladero en Telefe Noticias</u> (Not all that glitters is gold – report on TV about Veladero)			A Voice for Dignity and Respect Faithful Defender. Being a Faithful defender and, on occasion, a spokesperson for our values and those of persons closest to us.	
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10 Días como minero - Informe periodístico (News: 10 days as a minor)				
<u>Mining: Lithium</u> <u>Lessons</u> Actividades para trabajar en clase -Litio- (activities for the classroom -Lithium) <u>Content</u> Comunidades Aborígenes y James Cameron (Aboriginal communities – James Cameron) <u>Videos</u> ¿Cómo afecta la extracción de litio a las comunidades indígenas altoandinas? (How does the extraction of Lithium affect the Andean aborigine communities) Científicos Industria Argentina - Litio:	Mining Lithium – and its impact on water. Use of water. Struggle of the native communities to protect their habitat. Economy. Exploitation of natural resources. Relationship with sister Earth.	It allows for knowing the different problems that the exploitation of lithium entails. It reveals the environmental impacts generated by lithium extraction. It allows us to reflect on the negative consequences generated by the extraction of lithium both in environmental and social terms It allows for a knowledge of the relationship between political and economic powers. It can be used in	Compelled By Mercy Compassion. Caring for the needs of everyone, even those outside our immediate circle. Empathy. Putting ourselves in the place of others to understand their feelings and perspectives. Responsibility to serve. Fulfilling our duty to not only care about others, but also to act on their behalf. Educational Courage Curiosity. Being open to other ways of seeing the world and	Earth- It highlights the problems of the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources. Women- It shows the courage of women to face the struggle for the rights of their community. Nonviolence- It shows the violent relationship we have with our sister Earth. Immigration- It shows the migratory effect generated by the exploitation of natural resources.

Impacto ambiental 1-2 Científicos Industria Argentina - Litio: Impacto ambiental 2-2 (2 part series on the environmental impact of Lithium mining in Argentina) Científicos Industria Argentina - Litio en Argentina (scientists discuss the topic of Lithium mining in Argentina)		subjects such as Geography, Economics, Politics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Construction of Citizenship among others.	exploring new ideas Critical Thinking. Collect and objectively evaluate information through reflection and reason. Inspired By Faith Ethics and Morality. Following a personal moral code based on gospel values that guide actions and decisions. Principled Leadership Integrity. Standing up for / doing the right thing, even when it's difficult or unpopular. A Voice for Dignity and Respect Faithful Defender. To be a Faithful defender and occasional	
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			spokesperson of behalf of our values and those of all with whom we are close.	
<u>Mining: Fracking (Oil and Gas)</u> <u>Lessons</u> Fossil Fuels: Chocolate Chip Mining <u>Content</u> Movimiento social y cultural contra el Fracking (Social action against Fracking) <u>Videos</u> How does Fracking work? - Ted Talk Fracking en Argentina - Observatorio Petrolero Sur Fracking in Argentina – South Oil Observatory	Unconventional extraction of oil and gas. Environmental pollution. Economy, exploitation of natural resources. Politics: power dynamics. The struggle/fight on the part of the different communities. Corporate social responsibility.	This will show the different problems that the unconventional extraction of oil and gas entails. It shows the environmental impacts generated by the unconventional extraction of oil and gas. It allows for a reflection on the negative consequences generated by the unconventional extraction of oil and gas – considering both environmental and social aspects	Compelled By Mercy Compassion. Caring for the needs of everyone, even those outside our immediate circle Empathy. Putting ourselves in the place of others in order to understand their feelings and their perspective. Responsibility to serve. Fulfilling our duty not only to care about others, but also to act on their behalf. Educational Courage	Earth- It highlights the problems of the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources. Nonviolence- It shows the violent relationship we have with our sister Earth. Immigration- It shows the migratory effect generated by the exploitation of natural resources.

<u>Vaca Muerta: ¿La salvación Argentina? - Filo News</u> (Dead Cow: The salvation of Argentina) <u>Científicos Industria Argentina - Fracking el debate 1-4</u> <u>Científicos Industria Argentina - Fracking el debate 2-4</u> <u>Científicos Industria Argentina - Fracking el debate 3-4</u> <u>Científicos Industria Argentina - Fracking el debate 4-4</u> (Scientists discuss the fracking debate in Argentina – 4-part series)		It reveals an understanding of the relationship between political and economic powers. It can be used in subjects areas such as Geography, Economics, Politics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Construction of Citizenship, among others..	Curiosity. To be open to discovering other ways of looking at the world and exploring new ideas. Critical thinking. Objectively gather and evaluate information using reflection and reason. Inspired By Faith Ethics and Morality. Following a personal moral code based on gospel values that guide actions and decisions Principled Leadership Integrity. Standing up for/ doing the right thing, even when it's difficult or unpopular.	
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			A Voice for Dignity and Respect Faithful Defender. Being a Faithful defender and, on occasion, a spokesperson for our values and those of persons closest to us.	
<u>Agriculture:</u> <u>Agro-toxins</u> <u>Lessons</u> <u>Actividades para trabajar en clase.</u> (Classroom activities) <u>Content</u> <u>Uso seguro de agrotóxicos</u> (Safe use of pesticides) <u>Videos</u> <u>Informe: AGROTÓXICOS -</u>	Agricultural production systems. Methods of controlling "pests" in crops. The economy of the exploitation of natural resources. Corporate social responsibility. Fight for the right to good health.	This will uncover the different problems caused by the use of agrochemicals in the agricultural production system. This reveals the environmental impacts generated by the use of pesticides in the agricultural production system. Opens up a reflective discussion on negative consequences	Compelled By Mercy Compassion. Having concern for the needs of all, including those outside our immediate circle. Empathy. Putting ourselves in the place of others in order to understand their feelings and their perspective. Responsibility to serve. Fulfilling our	Earth- It highlights the problems of the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources. Women- Shows the courage of women to face the struggle for the rights of their community. It shows the importance of women in a productive society. Nonviolence- It shows the violent relationship

CQC Argentina (Report: agrotoxins CQC Argentina) Fabián Tomasi - No Matarás Fabian Tomasi – You Shall Not Kill Día Internacional de la Earth: recibimos a la UTT que cultivan sin agrotóxicos - Mañanas Públicas (International Earth Day: We heard from UTT that they are cultivating without agrotoxins. From Public mornings)	Environmental pollution.	including the negative environmental/social impact generated by the use of pesticides in the agricultural production system. These resources can be used in subjects such as Geography, Economics, Politics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Construction of Citizenship among others.	duty not only to care about others, but also to act on their behalf. Educational Courage Curiosity. Being open to other ways of seeing the world and exploring new ideas. Critical thinking. Objectively gather and evaluate information using reflection and reason. Inspired By Faith Ethics and Morality. Following a personal moral code based on gospel values that guide actions and decisions Principled Leadership Integrity. Standing up for/ doing the right	we have with our sister Earth
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			thing, even when it's difficult or unpopular. A Voice for Dignity and Respect Faithful Defender. Being a Faithful defender and, on occasion, a spokesperson for our values and those of persons closest to us.	
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Recommended Reading

[Why Should We Take Care of the Earth.](#)

[Ocean Friendly 2022](#)

[Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Bottom Trawl Fisheries](#)

[Impact of Over Fishing](#)

[Sustainable Fisheries in the Caribbean](#)

[Negative Effects of Bauxite Mining](#)

[Case Study-Impact of Bauxite on Malaysia](#)

[Deforestation in Mexico](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions about Fishing in Argentina](#)

[Fishing Discards Are Illegal in Argentina](#)

Fiction

How Beautiful We Were- Imbolo Mbue

The Word for World is Forest-Ursula Le Guin

The Overstory- Richard Powers

Nonfiction

The Uninhabitable Earth- David Wallace-Wells

Amazon Watershed- George Monbiot

Recommended Resources

[Lesson Plans on Care for Earth: Extractives](#)

[Laudato Si Action Plan – Sisters of Mercy](#)

[Sisters of Mercy.org/Fracking](#)

[Transforming Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development](#)

Recommended Videos and Movies

[Home - documental youtube](#)

[Impact of Coal Mining](#)

[Impact of Mining](#)

[Gold Mining in Myanmar](#)

[Deforestation in the Amazon](#)

[Artifishal- The Movie](#)