Name: _____
Date: _____

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS

CALCULATE YOUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT - WEB ACTIVITY

Your **ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT** is a measure of your personal demand on the Earth's ecosystems. It compares your demand with Earth's ability to regenerate resources for your demands. It represents the amount of biologically productive land and sea area needed to regenerate the resources that you consume and to absorb and render harmless all the waste you make. If you calculate your ecological footprint, it is possible to estimate how many planet Earths it would take to support all the humans on Earth if everybody on Earth lived the same way you do.

Go to the website: http://www.ecologicalfootprint.com/ . It is an ecological footprint generator based on United Kingdom statistics, but it is applicable to North American lifestyles. Once on the website calculate: **1)** your own personal ecological footprint, **2)** the ecological footprint of the most wasteful person – most Earths and least sustainable, **3)** the ecological footprint of the least wasteful person – least Earths and most sustainable. For each footprint record your responses below.

1) MY PERSONAL ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

Fill in your own personal information to calculate your own ecological footprint.

I live in the United Kingdom in a _____, which I share with _____. For the size of my home, my heating/cooling bills are _____. I buy my electricity from _____ and I tend _____. I travel mostly by _____ and usually go on holiday _____. I am _____ and usually eat _____. I produce _____ amount of waste, most of which is _____.

Your ecological footprint is _____ global hectares. If everyone lived like you, we'd need _____ planets to support global consumption. Your carbon footprint is _____ tonnes of CO_2.

2) ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT of the LEAST SUSTAINABLE PERSON – USES UP THE MOST EARTHS

Pretend that you are the most wasteful/least sustainable person, and play with the fields below until you create the ecological footprint of someone who would end up using **the MOST Earths**.

I live in the United Kingdom in a _____, which I share with _____. For the size of my home, my heating/cooling bills are _____. I buy my electricity from _____ and I tend _____. I travel mostly by _____ and usually go on holiday _____. I am _____ and usually eat _____. I produce _____ amount of waste, most of which is _____.

Your ecological footprint is _____ global hectares. If everyone lived like you, we'd need _____ planets to support global consumption. Your carbon footprint is _____ tons of CO_2.

3) ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT of the MOST SUSTAINABLE PERSON – USES UP THE LEAST EARTHS

Pretend that you are the least wasteful/most sustainable person, and play with the fields below until you create the ecological footprint of someone who would end up using **the LEAST Earths**.

I live in the United Kingdom in a _____, which I share with _____. For the size of my home, my heating/cooling bills are _____. I buy my electricity from _____ and I tend _____. I travel mostly by _____ and usually go on holiday _____. I am _____ and usually eat _____. I produce _____ amount of waste, most of which is _____.

Your ecological footprint is _____ global hectares. If everyone lived like you, we'd need _____ planets to support global consumption. Your carbon footprint is _____ tons of CO_2.

ANALYZING THE FOOTPRINT TEST

Now that you have an idea of how many Earths it would take for everyone on Earth to live your lifestyle, live the most wasteful lifestyle, and the least wasteful lifestyle, let's look at the footprint test itself. Change the responses in the footprint calculator and see what results you get to help you answer the questions below.

1. When you come to school each day, what method of travel uses the least amount of Earths and **why**?

2. If you want to use up less Earths, what is the best type of holiday to take and **why**?

3. Why does the size of home you live in matter to the number of Earths used up?

4. Does living with more people, or living with less people use up more Earths and **why**?

5. Why does the amount of meat you eat affect the number of Earths used up?

6. How does the amount and type of waste you produce affect the number of Earths used up?

7. What is a zero emissions development, and how does living in one affect the amount of Earths used up?

8. When you changed the answers to get the “Least Earths”, your number was still above 1 Earth. Even choosing the most sustainable options on the test, there still would not be enough Earths to support everyone. What explanation do you have for this?