

Introduction to Environmental Sustainability & Ecological Footprint

Name: _____

What is this unit all about? Before we go any further, [use this source, a short webpage from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#), to define environmental sustainability, the focus of this unit.

Environmental Sustainability:

Learning Goal: Define environmental sustainability and ecological footprint.

I. Warm-Up: How do people (including you) *interact with* and *affect* the environment? List as many ways as you can think of.

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II. With more and more people interacting with the environment in these ways, are we further helping or hurting our environment? Let's consider the question: how will an increasing global population affect the environment? Let's read [this article](#) and take some notes in the space below.

Key Quotes	Notes - Thoughts & Reflections

III. One of the most important key terms related to sustainability is ecological footprint or “eco-footprint.” Let's use a couple of videos to learn what that is....

Video	Key Notes
Number 1: Ecological Footprint Defined	
Number 2: Top Five Human Impacts on the Environment	

IV. Now, go to the following [ecological footprint calculator](#). Follow the directions and then provide as much detail as you can about your current lifestyle. It's okay if you do not know certain things; be as detailed as you can. Record the information you get at the end. How many earths would it take to support your lifestyle if everyone lived it?

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? Earths

Lastly, complete the chart below of *initial* ideas for how to reduce your footprint. Try to come up with 3-4 for each.

Changes to <i>my behavior</i> to live more sustainably	Changes to <i>society/culture</i> to live more sustainably

For homework:

Play around with the simulation to try to reduce your footprint to the smallest size possible. What are some ways that you could, according to the calculator, reduce your ecological footprint?

Take a look at this [FAQ for the footprint calculator](#). What are some things that it teaches you about how to reduce your footprint?