

Name: _____

Date: _____



Looking after our planet is an important idea in many religions and cultures. Read about some of the different perspectives below. You might use books or the internet to find out more.

Stewardship

Stewardship is an important Christian belief that humans have a responsibility to take care of the world and everything in it.

Hima

Muslims believe they have a responsibility, as God's people on Earth, not to harm the environment. Hima is an Arabic word which means 'private pasture.' Many Muslim countries have Hima, or natural conservation areas.

Kaitiaki

The Maori people of New Zealand believe that they are guardians of the environment. They have a responsibility to protect the environment, and have developed a code of rules for looking after the land, rivers and coastlines.

What do YOU believe is your responsibility for the environment as a global citizen? Write a list of responsibilities below:



Old electronic waste such as fridges, mobile phones and computers are exported from rich countries such as the United Kingdom to India and China. The waste contains harmful chemicals.

Farmers all around the world, but especially in poorer countries, struggle to make a living. They do not get paid enough for the food that they produce. Growing crops which make more money often does more harm to the environment.

Forests around the world are being cut down because of the demand for beef. The forests are cleared to make space for cattle to graze or to grow animal feed. This destroys habitats and harms the local and global environment.

Huge areas of rainforest in South America are being cut down for timber. Deforestation destroys habitats and harms the local and global environment.

Over-fishing causes problems in seas and oceans around the world. Too much fishing is reducing fish populations. In some poorer parts of the world, people cannot catch enough fish to eat because of big fishing boats.

Burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas releases harmful chemicals into the atmosphere. These chemicals are building up, causing changes in the Earth's atmosphere.



In your group, look at the Global Issues cards. Try to discuss and answer some of the questions below. Everyone should discuss the green questions; some of you might also discuss the orange questions; a few of you might discuss the purple questions, too!

Does this issue affect you? How?

How does this affect other people?

What do you already know about this issue?

What questions could you ask to find out more about this issue?

What could you personally do about this issue?

What could older people do about this issue?

What do you think that people in positions of power should do about this issue?

Not sure which questions you should be discussing? Ask your teacher!



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