

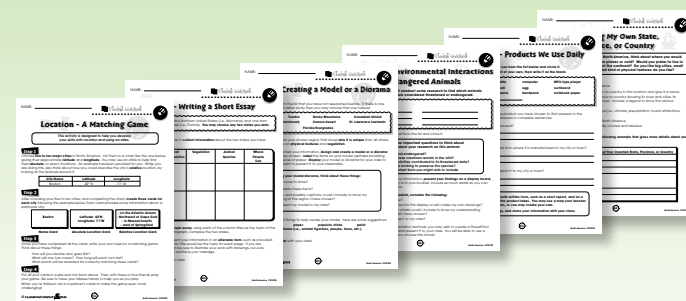
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Human & Environmental Interactions

1. Complete each sentence with a word from the list. Use a dictionary to help you.

population environment positive interaction negative

- a) The word _____ describes all that surrounds us: the living things around us, the climate, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land we live on.
- b) The way one thing acts on another is called an _____.
- c) _____ means something that is good, helpful, or constructive.
- d) _____ means something that is bad, unhelpful, or destructive.
- e) The people who live in a place are described as that place's _____.

2. Read and evaluate the list below, and complete the following activity.

- a) If an item is caused or created by humans, circle it in red.
 - b) If an item is a natural event, circle it in blue.
 - c) If an item is caused by both humans and nature, circle it in both colors.
- a forest fire air pollution a flood a disease
 a highway a park extinction a tornado
- d) Which items had both red and blue circles? List them.

 - e) How could a forest fire be both a natural event or something caused by humans?



Human & Environmental Interactions

Everyday, the things that people do affect their **environment**. We drive to work on roads that cross lands that were once forests. We build new houses on land that was once farmland. We burn fuels that can damage our air and health. Learning about these issues is known as the study of human/environment **interactions**.



In North America, the **population** is increasing. We have a greater need for natural resources and space. We must make many careful decisions to balance the needs of humans, animals, and the environment. For example, everyone knows that trees give us shade, beautify our gardens, and clean our air. Trees also provide us with wood for building things and paper for writing. In the North American **forestry** industry, each tree that is cut down for our use is usually replaced with a sapling, a new baby tree. This is called **reforestation**, and it allows us to maintain our environment. This human/environment interaction is a **positive** one.

Unfortunately, some interactions are **negative**. We now live in a period of global warming. The Earth's temperature is rising, and many scientists feel that we are responsible. They believe that exhaust from our cars and other vehicles, as well as pollution from factories, has **changed our** environment and caused the temperatures to rise. How has this affected our environment? One example has to do with polar bears. The ice that the polar bears live and hunt on is melting, and they must now swim great distances between pieces of ice that can support them. The result is that many polar bears are drowning. One day, polar bears may become extinct because of our actions.

STOP Why is global warming a negative human/environment interaction?



Human & Environmental Interactions

1. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is most correct.

- a) Why are new trees planted when older trees are cut down for our use?
 - A many trees die from this
 - B to maintain our environment
 - C to have more trees to cut down
 - D to build houses
- b) In North America, what is one reason why we need more space and natural resources?
 - A wild animals have entered our communities
 - B fewer people live here now
 - C the pipeline is dry
 - D the population is growing
- c) Why is global warming a threat to polar bears?
 - A the water is freezing
 - B the seals have become extinct
 - C the ice is melting, and some polar bears are drowning
 - D the polar bears get too hot
- d) What are two ways we have changed our environment?
 - A we build roads through forests, and homes on farmland
 - B trees are cut down and we run out of fruit
 - C whales are found in aquariums
 - D our cities are shrinking, and people are moving elsewhere

2. Circle **T** if the statement is true or **F** if it is false.

T = True
F = False

- T F a) Global warming has helped improve the environment.
- T F b) The population in North America is growing.
- T F c) As the population grows, there is a greater need for natural resources.
- T F d) Trees help clean our air.
- T F e) The lives and habitats of animals can be harmed if we make bad decisions.

Human & Environmental Interactions

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

- 3. Why do many scientists believe that humans are responsible for global warming?

- 4. Why might polar bears become extinct one day?

Extensions & Applications

5. Imagine that you have been given the job of deciding whether or not a situation is either a positive or a negative human/environment interaction. Your final conclusion will be final.

Here is a situation to consider: **A construction company wants to build some new homes for some needy families. They have chosen a piece of land that belongs to a farm that produces many kinds of fruits and vegetables for a neighboring town. Several trees will also have to be cut down to make way for the homes. The needy families are living in an overcrowded apartment building right now.**

Copy the t-chart onto a separate piece of paper to help organize your thoughts.

Positive Points	Negative Points

What have you decided to do? Circle your decision below.

I think this is a positive human/environment interaction

I think this is a negative human/environment interaction

Explain your thoughts in a few complete sentences.

Compare your decision with a classmate's. Discuss your decisions.



Crossword Puzzle!

Word List

tundra
population
characteristics
hemisphere
continent
relative
coasts
rivers
route
products
absolute
equator
Atlantic
western
climate

Across

- North America is the third largest _____ in the world.
- A region in the most northerly parts of Alaska and Canada.
- A path taken from one place to another.
- A place can be described by physical and human _____.
- _____ location describes exactly where a place is.
- many people live along the _____ because they need water for transportation.

Down

- North America is best described by its _____ location.
- North America is north of this imaginary line.
- North America is found in the _____ hemisphere.
- One of the shapes made by cutting a sphere in half.
- Things people use at home, work and school.
- The _____ in North America is growing.
- The Mississippi is one of North America's great _____.
- The temperature, rain and/or snowfall found in a place.
- The _____ Ocean lies to the east of North America.



Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

hemisphere	country	products	continent
location	coast	language	highway
population	latitude	rainforest	region
communication	Equator	absolute	vegetation
feature	environment	longitude	relative
tundra	river	climate	characteristic
link	movement	interaction	

c	o	m	m	u	n	i	c	a	t	i	o	n	e	w	t	c	h
m	o	r	a	i	n	f	o	r	e	s	t	e	g	e	g	h	t
r	l	a	l	e	n	i	i	r	e	d	d	o	a	n			
b	a	o	s	e	l	o	n	g	t	u	d	e	o	s	r	e	
a	n	p	d	t	o	u	l	b	o	m	e	r	c	y	s	a	n
n	g	i	u	m	s	i	r	t	e	o	o	y	n	m	a	c	i
o	u	l	m	l	a	y	l	o	h	c	n	a	l	e	m	t	t
i	a	o	c	e	v	i	t	a	l	e	r	h	h	a	t	e	n
g	g	p	o	p	u	l	a	i	o	n	l	a	e	n	r	o	
e	e	e	u	x	u	o	v	n	e	f	g	a	e	e	e	i	c
r	a	f	n	m	i	c	h	a	q	f	t	t	e	h	m	s	u
e	b	s	t	m	g	a	f	r	u	s	t	i	e	e	e	t	r
n	s	p	r	i	p	t	g	d	a	i	n	t	a	m	v	i	c
v	o	e	y	n	u	l	o	n	t	g	n	u	h	i	o	c	s
i	l	l	a	s	s	o	l	u	o	w	n	d	e	s	m	u	d
r	u	l	a	b	b	n	r	t	r	i	v	e	r	p	o	u	e
o	t	b	w	r	e	d	n	p	u	h	e	i	c	h	n	t	e
n	e	o	w	y	a	w	h	g	i	h	d	v	n	e	r	h	r
m	b	u	l	v	e	g	e	t	a	t	i	o	n	r	a	p	u
e	r	n	k	t	e	c	l	i	m	a	t	e	l	e	s	o	t
n	a	n	r	l	p	r	o	d	u	c	t	s	t	u	v	t	a
t	i	u	n	n	c	a	s	p	r	d	l	r	a	g	e	e	
l	h	n	e	a	r	i	n	t	e	r	a	c	t	i	o	n	f



Comprehension Quiz

Part A

Circle **T** if the statement is true or **F** if it is false.

T = True
F = False

- North America is in the eastern hemisphere.
- Lines of latitude are used to find the location of a place north or south of the Equator.
- The plants that grow in a place are called vegetation.
- The Great Plains is a cold and mountainous region.
- The Equator is an imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.
- A rainforest has a dry, dusty climate.
- Latitude and longitude are used to find a place's absolute location.
- Oceans provide links between the continents.

Part B

Label the map by doing the following:

- Show the following features on the map by writing the letter on the map in the correct location.

- North America
- Atlantic Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Arctic Ocean
- South America



SUBTOTAL: /14

North America Physical Map





Human & Environmental Interactions

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

3. Why do many scientists believe that humans are responsible for global warming?

4. Why might polar bears become extinct one day?

Extensions & Applications

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**I think this is a negative human/
environment interaction**

Explain your thoughts in a few complete sentences.

Compare your decision with a classmate's. Discuss your decisions.

3.

Pollution from cars and factories is causing the earth's temperature to rise

4.

Answers will vary (i.e. polar ice caps are melting; nowhere to hunt or live, etc.)

5.

Possible answers:
Positive - needy families will get new homes
Negative - farmland will be destroyed, less food, trees will be cut down

Across:

7. continent

8. tundra

9. route

11. characteristics

13. absolute

14. coasts

Down:

1. relative

2. equator

3. western

4. hemisphere

5. products

6. population

10. rivers

11. climate

12. Atlantic

10

11



EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY