

Ecology Personal Footprint Analysis

1. How would you describe the area in which you live? Use terms such as desert, prairie, or coastal. Even if you live in a city, in which type of environment was the city built?
2. Describe the climate of your area.
3. Name 5 plants that seem to be native to your area. For each plant, list one reason why it is important to humans. For example, can these plants be used as a source of food? Are they used in landscaping?
4. What type of wildlife can be found in your area? Make a list of the different animals that you have seen.
5. Referring to your list in question 4, are you aware of any laws or ordinances that protect any of these animals? If so, which animals, and why are they protected?
6. Make a list of any migratory mammals or birds that pass through your area. At what time of the year would you expect to see them?
7. Choose 3 birds found in your area and determine their niche.
8. What agricultural products are grown in your area? Is there a problem in obtaining the water necessary for growing these crops?
9. What pests are found in your area that might interfere with the growing of crops or livestock?
10. How do you dispose of garbage? Where does the garbage go when it is collected?
11. Do you recycle in your home? If so, list the types of items that you recycle.
12. How can you and your family improve in your efforts to recycle?
13. List three organizations or agencies in your area that are involved in the conservation and protection of the environment. Describe the purpose of each agency/organization.
14. What volunteer work have you done in your area to support the protection or conservation of the environment?
15. Are there any places in your area where you can go to fish? Would YOU eat the fish caught there?
16. When you consider the area in which you live, are there any obvious sources of pollution? If so, describe the source and the type of pollution.
17. How would you describe the air quality where you live?
18. How would you describe the water quality where you live?
19. Do you live in an area where logging or mining occurs? Are efforts made to restore the environment?
20. Other than recycling, what is done in your home that could be considered "conservation"?
21. What can you do at school to help conserve the resources of the environment?
22. Is there a recycling program at your school? What items at school could be recycled?
23. If your school does not participate in recycling, write a short paragraph in the space below to convince your principal to start a recycling program.