

A little practice for secondary school students toward a sustainable future

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Abstract

High and growing global population, multiplied by high consumption by the affluent, cause many problems. These include many aspects of poverty and the suffering of poor children. Immigration pressures and tragedies. Conflicts over scarce resources. Diminished quality of life in crowded cities. Youth unemployment. Pollutions ranging from plastics to poisons. Rising atmospheric CO₂ and climate change. Habitat loss and overexploitation of wildlife on land and sea. And so, to develop ability to make good choices in the future and to reduce these problems, two educational activities are offered here. They have been tested and refined in New York City by nearly 2000 students hailing from over a dozen nations. Without fail, the students learned the causes and effects described here (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1. The Many Problems Challenge. Prior to this challenge students should gain concrete understanding of the various facts through readings, videos, or immediate experience.

The Many Problems Challenge English version

You are asked to help a Nation solve its problems. Can you arrange the 20 facts into the chart?

causes of causes...		causes...		effects...		then effects of effects
	↘					
	↘		↗		→	
	↘		↗		→	
			→		→	
		combines with				
			→		→	
	↗		↘		→	
				and		and
	↗		↘		→	
	↗					

poverty, strife, war	loss of habitat	high consumption	overexploitation of species
lack of contraception	health problems	lack of education	shortage of resources
loss of biodiversity	increasing wealth	climate change	vanity & materialism
pollution	irritation, stress	high population	wasteful technologies
loss of ecosystem services	crowding & noise	sexual activity	extreme weather

