

## **Grade 8 WILD – Environmental Worldview and Change: Inquiry Project**

**Big Question:** How is our Environment Changing and how can we help make this change sustainable?

**Background:** Alberta does not exist in isolation. The policies and actions taken in Alberta influence other countries and what happens in other countries affects Albertans. Within Alberta, multiple perspectives exist in terms of the importance of the economy, and environment.

Alberta today is facing some tough decisions. We are part of the global economy and our actions are not isolated. How do we balance our need to protect our ecosystems, yet maintain economic viability?

**Materials:** Notes from The story of Stuff, The story of bottled water, “Stop the Ghost Clearcut” presentation notes, Part A, and Part B worksheets, land use plan results from Alberta Tomorrow, notes from movie “bag-it”, and general awareness of nature and our environment.

### **Assignment:**

**Answer the above inquiry question (The Big Question) by choosing one of the following projects:**

- *choose an environmental issue (local or Provincial or National) and explain how our environment is changing because of this issue and how things could change for a more sustainable future (examples: “stop the ghost clearcut”, keep the castle region wild, clean-up our oceans, “branches and bank”...)*
- *choose an environmental action project to work on and **do** something to make a change (examples: “branches and banks”, “save our seas,” build bat boxes and do some research on little brown bats, work with Branches and Banks to help preserve waterways and riverbanks, work on stopping light pollution, learn more about bio-plastic and try to ban plastic bag use in Cochrane, stop the purchase bottled water, research and try a 100-mile diet, start a “bike paths in Cochrane” campaign, “bike to school” day...)*
- *research and teach us about some environmental group that is making a difference (examples: green peace, sea shepherd conservation society, Alberta Eco-Trust, Alberta Wilderness Association, CPAWS, sustainable Calgary....)*
- *Come up with your own project idea and check it out with Mrs. P.*

- ***You may present your project at the Manachaban Environment Fair in June on a display table in the gym. (or you may choose to display your “water is life” project ... or you may display both ☺***

1. **Process:**

- a) Research and gain insight and information on your project
- b) Use a graphic organizer to organize all your information and notes about your topic
2. Using the information in your graphic organizer, Answer the inquiry question (answer should be approximately one page in length by synthesizing all the information you have gathered throughout this topic).
3. DO (ACTION!!) your project (if you are needing to make phone-calls, interview people, build things, talk to people... let me know your plan....)
4. Collect images, video clips, photos, “live interviews” throughout this project and store in a file in a Dropbox or a file on your documents or on google docs. (remember to always back up your researched information). If you are calling people, I need to know.
5. Using your notes, graphic organizer and inquiry answer, prepare a “Display” to visually present your Environmental Project and what you did to create a more sustainable environment.
- 6.

**You must submit the following all together in a package:**

- ☐ Title page: Name of assignment, date, teachers name and your name (use proper APA format)
- ☐ Jot notes from your research, calls, interviews...)
- ☐ Graphic Organizer
- ☐ Answer to the inquiry Question
- ☐ Bibliography

You will also submit separately:

- ☐ tri-fold Display of your “ACTION”

**Guiding Questions** *that might help you with your project: (most of these questions you have seen while working on the Alberta Tomorrow Website)*

What do we need to live?

Can we have it all? All the resources we want without adversely affecting our environment?

What if you had to decide what is most important? The environment or the economy?

What does prosperity mean? How do we or should we measure it?

Why do economics often take priority over the environment?

What is sustainable development?

Is it easy to achieve sustainable development? Why or why not?

How do we make economic policies sustainable?

What are types of development that affect Alberta's economy?

Governments have to take into consideration multiple perspectives. If you were First Nations, what kind of land use plan do you think you would come up with? If you were a forester or a politician, how might your land use plan change?

The million dollar question: How can we develop natural resources but maintain environmental quality?