



The Population Educator

Teacher Training and Resources from Population Connection

New High School Curriculum from Population Connection

A popular teaching resource just got better! This past spring, Population Connection published the third edition of *Earth Matters: Studies for our Global Future*, a secondary curriculum, now available on CD-ROM.

Two years in the making, this new electronic edition is greatly expanded from previous editions to include 32 readings and 43 innovative teaching activities, appropriate for use in U.S. and Canadian classrooms. The previous edition had been published a decade ago, so there was considerable work to be done in rewriting all of the student readings to reflect current realities, research and policy on a host of environmental and social justice topics. The curriculum was also expanded to include four new units on oceans, public health, urban sprawl and personal consumption trends.

Earth Matters is designed to help students understand the complexities of population pressures, climate change, natural resource use, wildlife endangerment, distribution of wealth and food, urbanization, public health, gender equity, economic progress and how these issues are interrelated. Most importantly, *Earth Matters* helps prepare students to be “global citizens,” using critical thinking and creative problem-solving techniques by exploring some of the most pressing environmental, social and economic issues of our time.



The CD-ROM matches activities to national academic standards for ten different subject areas and is especially appropriate for general and AP courses in environmental science, world geography and economics. It is organized by 16 thematic units which each include background readings, in-depth case studies and several hands-on activities. Also included are a comprehensive teacher’s guide, glossary and list of suggested books and websites for further

research. All of the readings and activities are formatted as PDF files to download, print and distribute.

In developing the curricula, we were assisted by teams of teacher reviewers as well as content experts from government agencies, nonprofits, think tanks and universities who reviewed the student readings for accuracy and tone.

The Earth Matters CD-ROM is Windows/Mac compatible and is available for \$15.00 plus shipping and handling at www.populationeducation.org; or call 1-800-767-1956.



For a limited time, you can also download a sample unit from our website.



Resources

Interview with the author of *If America Were a Village*

David J. Smith, author of the popular book *If the World Were a Village*, has a newly released follow-up book entitled *If America Were a Village*. This new release is an excellent compliment to Population Connection's *300 Million in the U.S.A.* lesson plan free for download at www.populationeducation.org. The lesson plan includes activities on U.S. demographics, resource use, economy and education. Read on for a recent interview with Mr. Smith.

Population Education: What inspired you to write a follow-up book for the U.S.?

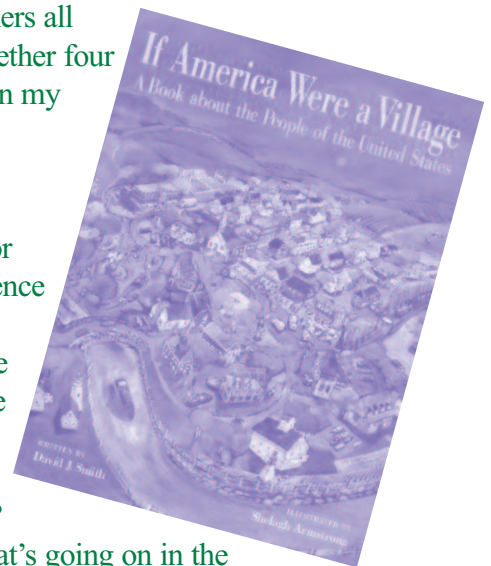
David Smith: The new book? It just came out of lots of requests from teachers and students when I was making school visits. One of the questions was always, "What about America?" Teachers all over the world have used *If the World Were a Village*. I put some numbers together four or five years ago so when the question came up I had the numbers handy. Then my editor and I came up with this book.

Population Education: Who do you envision using your new book?

David Smith: Since the origin of *If the World Were a Village*, the book was for teachers and schools. And I think the audience isn't that different. So the audience would be for elementary kids for pictures, but the content can be for middle school up to adults. My dream about how the book gets used would be to have the same classrooms that were excited about *If the World Were a Village* to use them so the teachers can help the students develop a world view.

Population Education: How would you like this knowledge to be applied?

David Smith: For example, if the teachers are asked about healthcare and what's going on in the U.S., you can turn to page 27 and learn about the U.S. health statistics versus the world. I want the teachers to take a look at America, and then explore a little within the U.S. and their own community. Then go to the supermarket to see where the food arrives from in the morning. My favorite are the symbols. At the back of the book there are different symbols that you can ask the students about such as what would a "Statue of Tolerance" look like. I see ways that this can be a starting point and letting the teachers explore from there.



Author and classroom teacher, David J. Smith

Population Education: It was an interesting fact that there are twice as many households without children as those with children.

David Smith: I used the Census Bureau definition of a household. Many families – even those living with parents - don't have children living at home. "Household" doesn't equate to houses and so a person living alone in retirement is still a household. Plus the households without children also include those 14 [out of 100] people living in the village with others sharing a house like college students living in a dorm.

***If America Were a Village* by David J. Smith (Author) and Shelagh Armstrong (Illustrator) is now available in Hardcover at bookstores everywhere.**



Activities

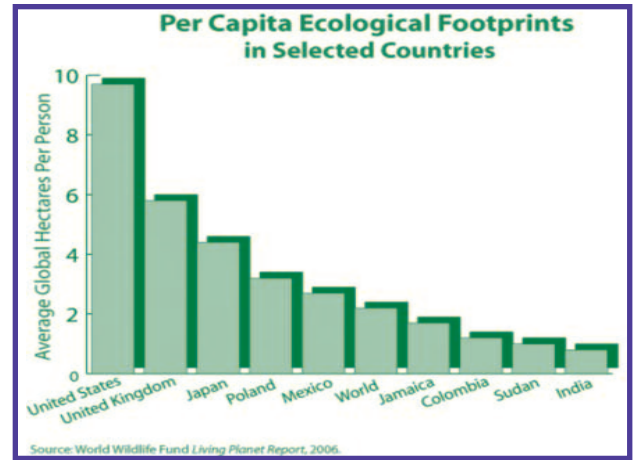
Watch Your Step

Concept: Human impact and resource consumption

Subjects: Social studies, family and consumer sciences, geography, environmental science, language arts, economics, history, health

Materials: Monthly electric and gas bills.

Procedure: Have students gather the information requested below. Then have them complete the online **Personal Footprint Calculator** at www.footprintnetwork.org to estimate how much land and water it takes to support their lifestyle. Go over the discussion questions listed below as a class assignment or assign them for homework.



For Students:

** You'll need to know or estimate the following information about your family's lifestyle and habits to fill out the Personal Footprint Calculator:

1. How often does your family consume animal-based food products, including dairy products?
2. How much of your diet consists of fresh produce, unpackaged goods, or locally grown food from within 200 miles of your town?
3. What are your family's shopping and recycling habits?
4. What type of home do you and your family live in?
 - a. Size and building materials used to build your house
 - b. A typical electric and gas bill amount
 - c. If any of your energy comes from a renewable source
5. Your weekly transportation in miles and the gas mileage of your car.
6. How many hours per year do you fly in airplanes?

Discussion Questions:

1. How does your footprint compare to the U.S. national average? The world average?
2. Using the chart above, how do other countries compare to you and to each other? Which country has the lowest ecological footprint? Which country has the highest ecological footprint?
3. What are the environmental, economic, and social impacts of a typical American diet and lifestyle? What would happen if the rest of the world adopted our actions and lifestyles?
4. In what ways would your grandparents' lifestyles have been different from your lifestyle?
5. Why do processed foods impact the Earth more than locally produced, non-processed foods?
6. Explore actions you could take to change your ecological footprint. No one wants to give up all the things that make our lives comfortable, but what are some important changes we can make that would reduce the size of our footprints?
7. What is changing in your community in an unsustainable direction? What is changing to make life more sustainable?

The full text of "Watch Your Step" can be found on our new *Earth Matters* CD previewed on page 1.

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The Population Educator

Teacher Training and Resources from Population Connection



Workshops

Check Us Out: To see how hands-on population activities can fit into your classroom, attend a workshop! Our staff and volunteer trainers will conduct teacher trainings at the following conferences in the next month. Visit the website of the sponsoring organization to find out how to attend the conference. To schedule a teacher training workshop for your education methods class, conference or in-service day visit www.populationeducation.org or call (800) 767-1956.

10/01/09	Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics	West Palm Beach, FL
10/02/09	Science Teachers of Missouri	Jefferson City, MO
10/03/09	NC Association for the Education of Young Children	Raleigh, NC
10/05/09	Iowa Talented and Gifted Association	Coralville, IA
10/08/09	North American Association for Environmental Ed.	Portland, OR
10/09/09	Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science	Fremont, NE
10/09/09	Oregon Science Teachers Association	Salem, OR
10/10/09	MI Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Ed.	Dearborn, MI
10/10/09	Kentucky Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Paris, KY
10/13/09	New Jersey Science Convention	Somerset, NJ
10/15/09	Midwest Environmental Education Conference	Champaign, IL
10/15/09	Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Rock Eagle, GA
10/16/09	WA Association for the Education of Young Children	Bellevue, WA
10/16/09	Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Peoria, IL
10/16/09	MT Ed. Association/Montana Federation of Teachers	Billings, MT
10/17/09	Arizona Association of Teachers of Mathematics	Tempe, AZ
10/17/09	Missouri Environmental Education Association	Springfield, MO
10/21/09	National Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Boston, MA
10/22/09	Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education	Eau Claire, WI
10/22/09	South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Columbia, SC
10/23/09	California Science Teachers Association	Palm Springs, CA
10/23/09	BC Social Studies Teachers Association	Port Coquitlam, BC
10/25/09	Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Indianapolis, IN
10/26/09	North Carolina Association of Elementary Educators	Raleigh, NC
10/27/09	New Jersey Council for the Social Studies	Piscataway, NJ
10/29/09	North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Greensboro, NC
10/29/09	Indiana Council for the Social Studies	West Lafayette, IN
10/30/09	National Science Teachers Association - Regional	Minneapolis, MN
10/31/09	Texas Council for the Social Studies	Dallas, TX
11/02/09	Michigan Council for the Social Studies	Mt. Pleasant, MI

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 to Renew!

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The Population Educator is a publication of the Population Connection Program, written by Colleen Beck, and edited by Pamela Wasserman.

*Go to www.populationeducation.org for complete list of upcoming conferences.