



Acterra

YOU(TH)
BE THE
CHANGE

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

1

Review Session 4

2

Environmental Justice

- Theory
- History

Climate Justice

3

Communications Activity



LESSON 5: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS

Time	60 Minutes
Next Generation Science Standards	<p><u>Next Generation Science Standards</u></p> <p>MS-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity HS-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity</p> <p><u>Disciplinary Core Ideas</u></p> <p>MS-ESS3.D: Global Climate Change Human activities, such as the release of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels, are major factors in the current rise in Earth’s mean surface temperature (global warming). Reducing the level of climate change and reducing human vulnerability to whatever climate changes do occur depend on the understanding of climate science, engineering capabilities, and other kinds of knowledge, such as understanding of human behavior and on applying that knowledge wisely in decisions and activities. (MS-ESS3-5)</p> <p>HS-ESS3.A: Natural Resources Resource availability has guided the development of human society. (HS-ESS3-1) All forms of energy production and other resource extraction have associated economic, social, environmental, and geopolitical costs and risks as well as benefits. New technologies and social regulations can change the balance of these factors. (HS-ESS3-2)</p>
Vocabulary	Environmental justice, Climate justice, Science communication

Materials	<u>Session 5 PowerPoint</u> 
Topics Covered	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review Session 42. Environmental Justice<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Theoryb. History3. Climate Justice <p>Enrichment: Communications Activity</p>
Learning Goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cover the history and purpose of environmental justice2. Understand the difference in climate change contributions between low-income and high-income countries and communities3. Understand that not all communities will be impacted by climate change equally and how these impacts differ4. Practice communications through optional enrichment activity

INTRODUCTION

Review Lesson 4: Food Systems

Ask | "What do you remember from our last lesson on food systems?"

This piece is to start the lesson off with classroom participation.

Bonus: List the vocab words from Lesson 4 (and a few from Lesson 3!) on the board and have students independently try to remember what each word means – even the act of trying to remember is helpful, even if they ultimately can't remember. Then go through each vocab word as a class. If there are any words that nobody remembers, make a note of it (as you can re-review it at the beginning of the next class).

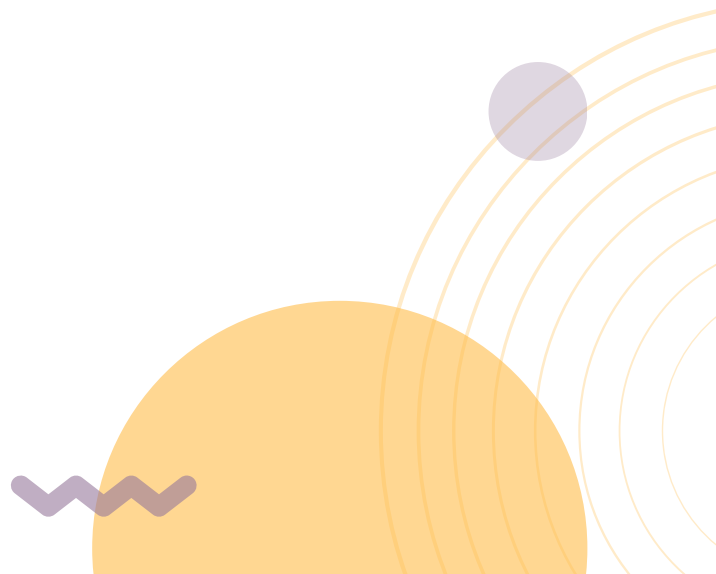
Topics to review include:

1. Introduction to agricultural concepts
2. Animal based products are the most carbon intensive agricultural operations. But why?
 - a. Land use intensity
 - b. Water use intensity
 - c. Methane release
3. The Mediterranean diet

After the review, go over the agenda and begin the lesson.

Today's Agenda:

1. Review Session 4
2. Environmental Justice
 - a. Theory
 - b. History
3. Climate Justice
4. Communications Activity



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Engage Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate



Ask | "Who do you think has the resources to solve climate change?"

This prompt is an opportunity for students to draw on what they've gathered from hearing about climate change and who is impacted in the media, and from peers. Let them put these thoughts into their own words.

Ask | "What is environmental justice?"

Ask students to think about if they've heard this term before. If they have: where have they heard it? What does it mean to them? If they haven't heard it: what can they infer about it?

After some time of independent reflection and note taking, open up the topic for discussion. Make the example of - In the classroom - if someone makes a mess, the ones who made the mess should be the ones to clean it up.

Environmental Justice: Environmental Justice is the equitable treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Engage, **Explore** Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate



The environmental justice movement began as a grass-roots movement of affected citizens, civil rights activists, and environmentalists collaborating to secure the rights of low-income and minority communities to clean and safe environments. Modern environmental justice can be dated back to the Memphis Sanitation Strike in 1968 or more popularly, the Whispering Pines Landfill lawsuit in 1979.

In the late 1970s, the Whispering Pines sanitary landfill was set to be built in the mostly Black, middle-class neighborhood of Northwood Manor. During a bitter fight to keep this landfill out of their neighborhood, Linda McKeever Bullard helped these residents file a lawsuit against Southwestern Waste Management. This lawsuit alleged that the decision to place a landfill in their neighborhood was racially motivated. It was also the first to ever charge the US with environmental discrimination in waste facility siting under civil rights law. Though they lost this case, it marked an important beginning for the environmental justice movement.

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