

**Grade Seven Unit 1 Topic 2: Environmental and Cultural Impacts of Urbanization**

**Essential Questions:** Who benefits from globalization?

When does (or has) globalization go too far?

**Suggested Pacing: 15-18**



**Background:** Students in 5th grade explored and made connections to culture and what happens when cultures come together. This informed their thinking when looking at other continents dominated by Western Europe and Western European technology, creating in students a more worldly view of exploration as not just something that happened in North America but as a worldwide phenomenon that spread Western values and beliefs. Students are entering grade 7 from a study of borders and the politicization of maps in 6th grade, where students explored mapmaking to serve specific groups in perceived positions of power. Students have explored what determines who has power and who doesn't. In the last topic, students explored the effects of globalization and colonization on societies and people groups.

**Task:** Students will choose to research an impact that Urbanization has had on South America, either exploring the effects of Deforestation or Human Rights violations that have resulted as populations of cities have soared and resources have dwindled. With a team or individually, they will research a human rights violation or an effect of Deforestation of the Amazon and create an action plan to raise awareness regarding the violation. Students will work to take informed action on the issue by creating a Public Service Announcement. Students informed action PSA could be presented in the form of a letter to a politician, a news broadcast, a newspaper article, a poster, etc. Writers and artists create PSAs to bring awareness and attention to what they believe matters in the world.

**Social Studies Skills Introduced Through this Task:**

- SS.6-7.GEO.3: Analyze and evaluate the relationship between humans and the environment.(6-7.7-8)
- SS.6-7.GEO.5 Analyze the connections between environment, natural resources and goods and its influence on domestic and foreign relations. (6-7.9-11,8.3)

**Purpose:** What benefits one does not always benefit all. There are a very specific group of people who benefit from globalization. Depending on where you are standing, and the power that you have in that position, it may impact what you find beneficial. The consequences of urbanization in South America have been both human right violations and harm to the environment. As a result of globalization, there have been Human Rights violations enacted on Indigenous Peoples, as well as political oppression in South America. Cities have swelled in numbers and destruction of the Amazon Rainforest has led to environmental concerns, as well as animal, plant, and indigenous habitats. Students will evaluate the impact of urbanization to conclude when it has gone too far.

**Throughout this task, pair with myWorld:**

- *Chapter Connections to be used and added as needed*

**Academic Vocabulary**

Globalization  
Urbanization  
Deforestation  
Amazon Rainforest  
Human Rights  
Environment  
Scarcity  
Overpopulation  
Resources  
Supply and Demand  
Sustainable

### **Getting Started:**

Stoy of Tuma and the Jars of Water -

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M6RnDrQ9jVJHUEoBgOyS9wCqfg3CDIqKyziqRRXALE0/edit>

Students will read the fictional story of “Tuma and the Jars of Water”. They will then participate in a class discussion on the following:

1. What does scarcity mean?
2. Can you think of some things that are scarce?
3. What are some ways to distribute something that is scarce?
4. When something is scarce, how is price usually affected? (Think gas prices)
5. If one country has something another doesn't and wants badly, what might happen between these two countries?

### Activities

1. Discuss with students the idea of supply (amount of a good or service) and demand (the number of people that want a good or a service and how the price can be affected.)

- If there is a hurricane in Florida which destroys a lot of oranges, what could happen to the price of orange juice? ( $S < D =$  Higher Prices)

- After Valentines' Day, what usually happens to the price of holiday candies and why? ( $S > D =$  Lower Prices)

### **Making Meaning:**

Students will partake in a short simulation demonstrating scarcity and how overpopulation (connected to urbanization) affects resources and the environment. In small groups students will be given a pool of “fish” (candy). Each fisherman will have an opportunity to fish, but they must make a choice between personal gain and the good of the community.

Students will then partake in a discussion on the following questions (these are the same questions which will be in their journals):

- How does the lack of resources affect communities? The environment? People?
- Are there any solutions to the fish scarcity problem? If so, what are they?
- Give an example of how a lack of resources has affected your own life. What did that feel like?

Students will watch [this video](#) on the Tragedy of the Commons Video.

## Opportunity to Assess Journal Writing

In their social studies journals, have students write down their thoughts about the following questions.

- How does the lack of resources affect communities? The environment? People?
- Are there any solutions to the fish scarcity problem? If so, what are they?
- Give an example of how a lack of resources has affected your own life. What did that feel like?

### Investigation:

Students will complete centers on the effect of urbanization on the environment and human rights. Centers will be focused on these three themes. Each center will be a different type, which are as follows:

- Image Analysis Center- Photos of the devastating effects of deforestation (people chopping down trees in the Amazon, the final effects of deforestation, and animals affected by deforestation)
- Fiction Center- Excerpt from the Lorax (metaphor for environmentalism and deforestation)
- Video Center- Case study of Rio and Urban Development of Latin America (Urbanization)
- Political Cartoon Center- The damaging effects of censorship
- Nonfiction Reading Center- Genocide of the Mayan people in Guatemala

Students will move through these centers and use their Social Studies Notebooks to capture important information that helps them to understand how Globalization has impacted Human Rights and the environment of South America. In their Social Studies Notebooks, students will draw conclusions about the past, compare that to the present, and look for cause and effect relationships/patterns.

Type of Center	myWorld	Additional Resources	Guiding Questions
<b>Video Center: Urbanization of South America</b>	*Use as needed	<b>Videos</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Case Study of Rio</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Urban Development of Latin America</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Latin America's Urban Problem</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">South America Geography</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Effects of Rapid Urbanization</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What is urbanization?</li> <li>● What are the social and cultural impacts of urbanization?</li> <li>● What are the environmental impacts of urbanization?</li> <li>● How has urbanization impacted the development of South America?</li> </ul>
<b>Image Center: Deforestation of the Amazon</b>		<b>Images</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Illegal Logging in Amazon by Indigenous Peoples</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Article Link</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <a href="#">Homeless Orangutan</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Barren wasteland vs. lush rainforest</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How is logging such a complicated issue?</li> <li>● How does deforestation affect animal life?</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the connection between urbanization and deforestation?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fiction Reading Center:</b>  <b>Deforestation:</b>  <b>Excerpt from the Lorax</b></p>		<p><b>Fiction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Lorax excerpt</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Video- Did you chop down this tree?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Video- The Last Tree Falls</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the Lorax connect to deforestation?</li> <li>• What are the deeper impacts of deforestation? (socially, environmentally, culturally, animal life, etc.)</li> <li>• How do humans impact their environment?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Political Cartoon Center:</b>  <b>Human Rights in Venezuela</b></p>		<p><b>Political Cartoons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Censorship Breath Cartoon</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Shh Cartoon</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Taking Computers Cartoon</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Article on Bonil Link</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is censorship?</li> <li>• What does it mean for the government to censor something or someone?</li> <li>• Who benefits from censorship?</li> <li>• What is freedom of speech? Freedom of expression? Are these a right everyone in every nation has?</li> <li>• What message is the cartoonist trying to send?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Non-Fiction Reading Center:</b>  <b>Favelas of South America</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Five things to know about favelas</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">A guide to the history of favelas</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The favelas of Rio</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Images</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Image #1</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Image #2</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the conditions of the favelas like?</li> <li>• What are the economic implications of the existence of favelas?</li> <li>• How do the favelas represent the culture, customs, and history of the region?</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the connection between colonization and favelas?</li></ul>
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### **Opportunity to Assess Journal Writing**

**In their social studies journals, have students write down their thoughts about the following questions using their notes from the centers.**

Use the guiding questions for each center as an opportunity to assess understanding. Students will answer questions in their journals.

### **Create/Produce:**

Students will choose to research an impact that Urbanization has had on South America, exploring the effects of Deforestation that have resulted as populations of cities have soared and resources have dwindled. With a team or individually, research an effect of Deforestation of the Amazon and create an action plan to raise awareness regarding deforestation.

Students will work to take informed action on the issue by creating a PSA. Your informed action could be presented in the form of:

- A letter to a politician
- News broadcast
- Newspaper or Magazine article
- A poster
- Etc.

Public service announcements (video, web page ...) are used by writers and artists to bring awareness and attention to what they believe matters in the world.

### **Communicate/Present:**

Students will set up their informed action PSA projects and complete a gallery walk around the classroom. While completing the gallery walk, students will reflect on the following prompt questions in their Social Studies notebooks:

- What seems particularly effective in your peers' PSAs?
- What do you notice about their language, imagery, etc.?
- Does this motivate you to join their cause? Why?

### **Reflection:**

Students should reflect on the following questions in their Social Studies journals:

- What is the most important point I wanted to get across to an audience in my PSA? Based on my peers' feedback from the gallery walk, was I successful in doing so?

- How successful was I in creating a PSA that clearly expressed my purpose - to explore the impact that Urbanization has had on Human Rights OR the Deforestation of the Amazon in South America? How do I know if I was or was not successful?
- In exploring my own and others' ideas about Human Rights and the Deforestation of the Amazon as a result of the Urbanization of South America, what are potential ways we can stop such violations in the future?