

Water Problems Around the World

Project Overview

The regions around the world that are listed on the back of this page all have something in common: they are all ecosystems whose water systems have become negatively impacted by humans. We are doing a micro-research project to teach others about these different regions, which will help build our knowledge for our final WeatherBlur video project.

This project has three parts:

Part 1: Research

You will choose one of the impacted regions, and will do initial research on the region.

Part 2: Research Report

Once you become an expert, you will write a research report about your region.

Part 3: Visual Project

Afterwards, you will create a visual project to teach others about your region in a creative way. Your choices for teaching methods include:

- A. Travel brochure
- B. Movie trailer
- C. Graphic novel
- D. Diorama

Project Requirements:

Science Standards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Create a pie chart or bar graph to show how much of the Earth is water, and how much of the water on earth is salt vs freshwater. (5ESS2-2)● Explains two problems we are facing with water on earth and at least two steps that communities and individuals can take in order to conserve (protect/ preserve) water (5ESS3-1)● Show how the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere can interact to create the varied conditions on earth. (5ESS2-1)
Social Studies Standards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Construct a map of an unfamiliar place. (D2.Geo.1.3-5)● Explain how the places humans choose to live relate to the locations and use of various natural resources. (D2.Geo.8.3-5)● Use maps, satellite images, photographs, and other representations to explain relationships between the locations of regions and their environmental characteristics. (D2.Geo.2.3-5)

Water Problems Around the World

Name:

Getting Started

In order to get started, you first need to decide which region you are interested in. On our class website in the social studies section, click the [WWF link](#). Then, click on the circle of each of the regions listed below. Explore each of the different regions by looking at the map and reading **just the first paragraph**. After reading the first paragraph, write down what intrigues you most about the region. Then, write down what continent the region is found in, and add it to your world own map as you go. Once you have read all of the following regions, choose your top two to research on the back side of this page.

Region	Continent	What intrigues you about the region?
Arctic		
Chihuahuan		
Gulf of California		
Mesoamerican Reef		
Northern Great Plains		
Amazon		
Southern Chile		
Galapagos		
Coastal East Africa		
Congo East Basin		
Madagascar		

Region	Continent	What intrigues you about the region?
Namibia		
Amur -Heilong		
Borneo and Sumatra		
The Coral Triangle		
Himalayas		
Greater Mekong		

Which of the seven continents are not represented in all of these threatened regions?

Why do you think that might be? Think about geography.

Which oceans are not represented in these threatened regions and why do you think that might be?

What are the top two regions you'd like to research, **and why are you interested in that region?**

First choice:

Second choice:

Water Problems Around the World Project

Name:

On our class website in the social studies section, click the WWF link. Then, click on the circle of the region you are researching. Do the following:

1. **Reading/Notetaking:** Read through ALL of the information about your region. While reading, take notes in your writer's notebook on important information that you want to include in your research project. The information you take notes on **MUST**:

- ★ Be written in your own words
- ★ Include some quotes **with page numbers and quotation marks**
- ★ Help by giving you information that shows evidence of your knowledge of the following standards:

Science Standards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explains two problems we are facing with water on earth and at least two steps that communities and individuals can take in order to conserve (protect/ preserve) water (5ESS3-1)● Show how the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere can interact to create the varied conditions on earth. (5ESS2-1)
Social Studies Standards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain how the places humans choose to live relate to the locations and use of various natural resources. (D2.Geo.8.3-5)● Explain relationships between the locations of regions and their environmental characteristics. (D2.Geo.2.3-5)

2. **Water Problems Around the World - Initial Research Assignment:** Once you finish reading and notetaking, then answer all of the printed out questions on the next few pages, making sure everything is **written in your own words** and is **in complete sentences**.

Water Problems Around the World Initial Research

Name:

Before getting started on the actual project, researchers first collect research and record their findings. You are responsible for researching your region on the WWF site, and collecting the following information:

1. What is the title of the region?

2. What continent is the region a part of?

3. What countries or states is the region part of or near?

4. Look at maps, photographs or Google satellite images of your region. Do the following:
 - a. Describe the geographic region, including landmasses and water, and whether it is freshwater or salt water.

 - b. Explain the relationship between the location of the region (where the region is located) and the environmental characteristics (what each of the four spheres are like in your region). In other words, how does the location of this region impact what it's like in the four spheres in your region? For example, Antarctica is in the Southern Hemisphere far from the equator. If you're in Antarctica, it's extremely cold. If it's really cold, then most of the water in the hydrosphere is frozen in ice caps and glaciers, most of the biosphere is just certain types of animals because plants can't survive. It's also the windiest continent.

5. Who are the people that live in the region? What do you know about their culture? How long have they lived there?

6. What is it about the location of the natural resources (water, plants, animals, soil, light, air, stone, minerals, and fossil fuels) in this region that would make people settle there?

7. How do the people depend on the water in the region?

8. What are the threats to the water?

9. What are two contrasting perspectives that different groups of people have about water use in this region? (Think about the people that have lived there forever and people who have not, or who want the region for a certain benefit)

10. What are organizations like WWF doing to help?

11. What can people around the world do to help with these kinds of problems?