

Everything is Connected: 7 billion and growing activity

Name _____ Period ____ Date _____

Introduction

“Everything is connected to everything else” is often called the First Law of Ecology. This activity encourages you to consider the connections between aspects of our natural environment and human society. With the population having reached 7 billion in late 2011 and projected to grow to 9-10 billion by 2050, one cannot ignore the far-reaching impact of our numbers on virtually every aspect of life on Earth. Today, you will build a *concept map* to make sense of this!

Materials

Construction paper, butcher paper, or poster board

Markers (a different color for each group member)

Procedure

1. Divide up into your groups. Each group will have their own piece of paper/poster board.
2. On the **back** of your paper/board, make a color-coded legend for each group member's different color of marker.

Name	Color

3. Write “7 Billion People and Growing” on the **front** and **in the middle** of your paper/board (**IN BLACK MARKER**)
 - a. Think about what might be the environmental, economic, or social impacts of more than 7 billion people living on the planet.
 - b. For example, “more people”...might mean “more cars on the road” or “more houses.”
4. Next to “7 Billion People and Growing,” draw an arrow and add one of these concepts.
 - a. There are no right or wrong answers here! But I may ask you to explain any of your proposed connections. These relationships may be neutral, positive, or negative.
5. Continue to add on to the map. **Color-code your additions so that I know who contributed each part of the web; Each group member must make at least THREE contributions to the concept map.**
 - a. You may add to the center concept “7 Billion People and Growing,” OR you may draw arrows off of and to other additional concepts (*See example provided on the PowerPoint*).

Goal: Create a large and interconnected concept map.

We will hang up your final product for other students to look at and compare!

Complete the accompanying discussion questions after viewing the other concept maps!

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Discussion

1. Do you agree with all of the connections that have been made? Why or why not? Explain your answer in detail, referring back to specific connections.
2. Were there any connections that you saw on all of the concept maps? Which ones? Be specific.
3. Did you make any connections on your map that you didn't see on the others? What were they?
4. Can you think of any connections that would link the maps together?
5. Would it be possible to combine each group's concept map into one large web?