

Potential Activities/Discussion Areas

1. Soils as a Natural Resource

- What is the renewability of soil?
- How does it factor into politics?
- How does it relate to the economy?

2. Agriculture and its role in building a nation

- What role does agriculture play in freedom and democracy?
- How does agriculture contribute to the wealth and status of a nation?
- What affect does agriculture have on international relations?

3. History of agriculture in the United States

- Comparison of Upton Sinclair's The Jungle with today's issue of food safety and the safety of farm workers
- The decline of family farms
- The creation of environmental and economic policies surrounding food and food production

4. Ecology

- Transfer of energy: Sun->plants->animals/people/insects->soil->plants etc.
- Transfer of matter between physical environment and organisms
- Carrying capacity: The number and types of organisms in an ecosystem depend on the resources (and quality of resources) available

5. Natural Resources

- What are they? Renewable/nonrenewable
- What are they used for? Origins of commonly used materials
- Relationship of natural resources with the earth
- Preservation/Conservation/Sustainability

6. Evolution/Genetics

- Key points- mutations are constantly being generated
- Variation within a species increases when same members will survive under altered environmental conditions