

"If I Had a Million Dollars..."



Begin the unit with the Bare Naked Ladies song: If I had a Million Dollars, and ask the students to write down what they would do with the money if they had it, and provide reasons for their spending spree. Tell them to put this away for later in the unit. Playing the song is very helpful.

At the completion of the brainstorm discussion is necessary to outline lifestyle/comfort and decide if these fit into the category of needs or wants for survival. The differences between Needs and Wants must be addressed here.

Now students are aware of what they need to survive and what the perceived needs of North American society include. It may be determined that a computer is needed to survive in North American culture, but is not necessary for survival. This raises a question that is electricity/computer a need? The students may deem them to be. From this point it is important to link the resources required to attain as well as maintain these needs.

Bringing back issues from Unit One regarding one earth, one closed system, and one set of global resources must be mentioned. Now students need to start making the connection between their needs/wants and the biosphere connections.

Now that the students have spent time discussing needs vs. wants it is important to discuss the impacts these wants and needs have on the environment. The rest of the unit will be used to expand on this issue. As a close for this topic, have the students pull out their earlier list regarding the Bare Naked Ladies' song and ask them to complete the following reflection: Looking at your original list, assess the impacts your actions and consumptions would have on: the immediate area, nationally, and globally.

Before progressing further, it is important students see the various viewpoints expressed in the environmental and resource management issue. So far all that has been discussed are the needs and wants of Grade 12 students. Discussion about stakeholders and First Nations traditional values should be brought into the class.

- Look over the past twenty-four hours.
- Generalize what you did during that time. Include activities, eating, places you were...
- Describe what you needed in order to survive and complete these tasks.
- From this developed list of make a sub-list outlining which were needs of survival for you to live here in Ontario.
- From the original list make another sub-list outlining which were wants/extras that made life a more comfortable here in Ontario