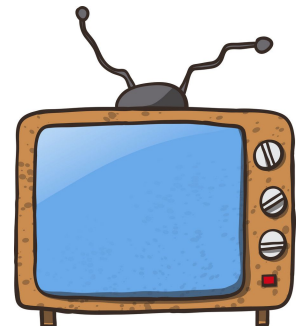
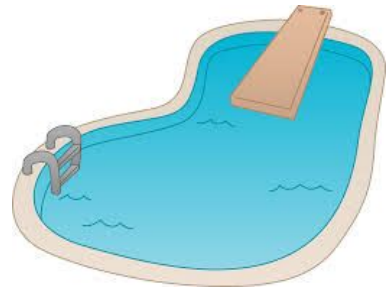


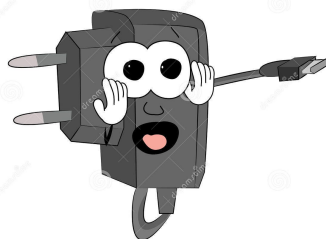
# CONCEPTUAL MAP: ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS



## DAILY CONSUMPTION OF WATER



## DAILY CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY



## Part One

Everyday I interact with common resources such as wildlife, water and electricity. Overall, my interactions can be considered negative. First, I eat meat frequently. Processing plants generate a mass amount of waste that pollute the air, generate waste and contribute to global warming. I also use a large amount of water on a daily basis. For example, I take long showers which results in me using more water than necessary. I also have a tendency to leave the tap running while I am brushing my teeth, further contributing to water wasting. Electricity is another everyday interaction that I have. Electricity powers the lights in my house, the appliances within, and it also gives power to non-necessary things such as hair styling products. The tragedy of the commons essentially means that people choose act selfishly instead of considering the common good. The fact that I tend to waste resources such as water and electricity directly relates to this concept. When I use more means than necessary out of self-interest, I may not individually destroy the environment. However, when every person adopts this mentality and starts being wasteful, the impact can be, and has proven to be, detrimental.

There are a few linkages that I consider to be fundamental to my lifestyle. First, I believe that using water to shower and bathe is essential. Albeit, I should consider shortening the amount of time that I spend in the shower to avoid wasting precious water. Second, I believe that my electronics are fundamental to my lifestyle. Cellphones, chargers, computers, and Ipads consume a lot of energy. However, I do not think I would be able to survive in society completely unplugged. Technology can be a great way to use socially, and for informational purposes. The third linkage that is fundamental to my lifestyle is clothing. The fashion industry contributes to a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions come from production, packaging, and shipping.

I believe that there are some linkages I could live without. For example, my hair straightener. Items such as these use electricity, and when millions of people use them the usage repercussions add up. A second linkage I could live without is eating meat. Although I enjoy meat, I understand that the breeding, housing, slaughtering, and packaging of animals consumes a lot of energy. A final thing I could go without is plastic water bottles. Plastic is detrimental to the environment, and it is extremely wasteful as a lot of it ends up in a landfill. Instead of drinking from plastic bottles I could consider purchasing a reusable bottle.

## Part Two

My quiz results indicated that if everyone lived the same lifestyle as I do we would need an alarming, 11.80 earths. The fact that I live in a large non eco friendly house which consumes a lot of energy on a daily basis was one of the main reasons that my footprint is so high. Additionally, in the transportation sector I scored very high. Both myself and my family travel frequently. Both of my parents spend at least 3 hours each day commuting, and my sister and myself spend about 2 hours a day in the car between the two of us. We are all frequent flyers,

going on upwards of 10 trips a year by airplane between the four of us. Planes are the most carbon intensive mode of transportation. Evidently, myself and my family do not live a very eco friendly lifestyle. In comparison to the scores of my group members, my ecological footprint is much much higher. The reason for this being the fact that many people are clearly more conscious about their ecological footprint. Many people mentioned that they try to walk when they can and that they also use public transportation. Although I am lucky enough to have my own car, and to travel lots, I recognize that it has a huge impact on the environment and that it is completely unsustainable. I took it upon myself to have my dad complete the quiz and his score was also upwards of 10. He scored high in the transportation sector as well as the food consumption section, given the fact that him and my mom frequently eat at restaurants.

### Part Three

The map that i created in part one somewhat corresponded with what was on the ecological footprint quiz in part two. The questions on the quiz discussed water usage as well as shopping habits which are both things that I discussed in part one. However, the quiz asked a great deal of questions about my home, the products used to make it, and the items within. This is a factor that I did not consider while I was completing part one of the assignment. For example, I have zero furniture in my house that is second hand or made from sustainable material. We also do not have things such as solar powered lights/heating, or water saving taps and low flush toilets. The quiz makers determine outcomes by comparing average scores of individuals who take the quiz. I believe that this approach can be useful because it evidently accounts for those who live a relatively privileged lifestyle (ie. own a computer and have access to the internet).

After completing the quiz, I have learned that my own human-environment interactions are alarming. I would definitely revisit the map I made in part one and consider the large scale impactors such as using cars, planes, and living in a large home. Completing this quiz made me recognize that it is very easy to be very wasteful without realizing it. Although I recognized the fact that I tend to be wasteful, I did not realize the impact that my negligence would have if every person lived the way that I do.

Sustainability means that the environment is able to recuperate at the same rate that people take from it. When anthropogenic activity is sustainable, people are able to interact with the environment in a way that does not harm it or take more than it can reasonably provide us with.

