

Classroom Hatchery Activity

Week 14: Empower your Ecological Footprint



The term ecological footprint refers to how much of the earth's land and water it takes to provide the natural resources an individual person or a community of people use (i.e. energy for heating, cooling, lights, devices, transportation; manufacturing of goods, clothing and building materials etc.). Currently the average use of natural resources by each global human citizen requires land and water from 1.6 earths to be sustainable! If everyone in the world lived like the average Canadian it would take 4.3 earths to support the current rate of natural resource consumption!

There is an obvious need for us to waste less and consume less but you can take it even further than that and **Empower your Ecological Footprint** to not only reduce your consumption and negative impacts but to also increase your positive impacts to increase biological health and productivity of the world around us.

Instructions:

- A. Visit one or both sites below to calculate your ecological footprint:

<http://parkcitygreen.org/calculators/kids-calculator.aspx>

<http://www.footprintcalculator.org/>

- B. Trace your (or a friend or family member's) bare feet onto a sheet of paper. On the left foot list 3 ways that you can reduce your ecological footprint (waste and consumption). On the right foot list 3 ways that you can empower your ecological footprint (stewardship). Colour your feet and share your ideas with your classmates, friends, and families.

