**Ranking Environmental Challenges**

You are a member of the Global Environmental and Economic Protection Agency (GEEPA). The task for you and your committee is to discuss the items below and rank them in order of importance. In other words, a rank of #1 indicates the item that is the most problematic and requires the most immediate attention in order to enhance the following: planetary sustainability, quality of life, success, prosperity, satisfaction and a sense of meaning and purpose. Your group may add other items, as this list may not include every possible issue. Note that many of the items are interconnected and your group may decide to combine some items. If you do this, still be prepared to identify the single most pressing issue. Your group has 10-15 minutes to discuss and rank your items. Feel free to ask for clarification on any of the items listed. Once your group has discussed your list, be prepared to share your ideas with the rest of the class.

wasting water water pollution land degradation

loss of habitat extinction of species acid deposition

ozone depletion desertification damming rivers

deforestation decreasing landfill space human overpopulation

air pollution forest fires threat of nuclear war

global warming over-fishing depletion of fossil fuels

over-hunting oil spills diminishing wilderness areas

over-consumption monoculture farming depletion of natural resources

introduced species overgrazing municipal solid waste

mining waste littering urban/suburban sprawl

loss of potential medicines and other beneficial products from ecosystems

displacement/loss of indigenous peoples/cultures

lack of knowledge of long-term impacts of chemicals

lack of awareness of impacts of human actions

Others:

Fracking

Coyote Control

Adapted from a variety of sources by Peg Cornell, Crescent Valley High School, Corvallis, Oregon

From the list above and rankings above, pick your top 10 problems and fill in the table below ranking on a scale 1 (most problematic) to 5 (least problematic). Also, is the problem more local or Global.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Problem | Ranking | Local | Global |
| 1 |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  |
| 9 |  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |  |

Group Rankings—Consensus…

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Problem | Ranking | Local | Global |
| 1 |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  |
| 9 |  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |  |

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