

Life on Land – Resource Extraction

INTRODUCTION – Why is this a Global Justice Issue?

Countries that are rich in natural resources are often poor and suffer from high rates of inequality, corruption, human rights abuse, and environmental degradation. The tremendous wealth generated by the extraction of gold, diamonds, copper, oil, and other natural resources should help lift people out of poverty. But the revenue is often lost to corruption, tax evasion, and waste.

GLOBAL GOAL INDICATOR:

LIFE ON LAND - Target 15.1, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6.

SUGGESTED AREA OF FOCUS:

- ✓ Types of Resource Extraction & country case studies
- ✓ The impact of Resource Extraction on the environment
- ✓ Losses from poor natural resource management
- ✓ Unsustainable methods of extraction
- ✓ The human consumption of the Earth's Natural Resources
- ✓ Overconsumption: our use of the world's natural resources

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS:

- Business Studies
- Home Economics
- Religious Education
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Gaeilge
- Geography
- History
- CSPE
- SPHE

SUGGESTED LEARNING INTENTIONS:

Students should be able to:

- ✓ explain the relationship between mineral resources and political/economic power.
- ✓ research different minerals and educate one another about their formation, uses, and location of deposits.

TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS:

Educational Toolkits:

Natural Resources: lesson plans, active learning methodologies, handouts, etc

Link: <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/natural-resources/>

Overconsumption: our use of the world's natural resources (Senior Cycle resource)

Link: <https://cdn.friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/overconsumption.pdf>

Achieving Natural Resource

Justice Oxfam International Extractive Industries Global Program Strategic Plan 2016-2019

Link: https://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/media/files/External_OI_EI_SP_2.3.16-FINAL.pdf

A See, judge, Act, Reflection on the Impacts of Mining

Link: https://www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org/files/shftp_uploads/2019/2/Impacts_of_Mining.pdf

The state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture (for use at senior cycle)

Link: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i1688e.pdf>

How developing countries are paying a high price for the global mineral boom

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/aug/15/developing-countries-high-price-global-mineral-boom>

Useful Websites:

The Pulitzer Centre

Theme: Coltan extraction and the Congo Conflict

Link: <https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/africa/democratic-republic-congo-drc>

Mining Injustice Solidarity Network - The Mining Injustice Solidarity Network (MISN) is a Toronto-based activist group that organizes to draw attention to and resist the negligent practices of Canadian mining companies, who comprise over 75% of mining businesses worldwide.

Link: <https://mininginjustice.org/about/>

Short Video Clips:

Dirty Business: How mining made Australia - How Mining Made Australia is the history of Australian mining. It portrays how over the last 150 years mining has made Australia rich, yet created an unending struggle over who shares in the wealth. It reveals how mining helped forge democracy yet has repeatedly plotted to influence politics and even overthrow democratically elected leaders. Whilst mining has also been deeply damaging to Aboriginal society, ironically in the 21st century, it may be aboriginal people's best hope of economic self-determination.

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPKS_fb2_l4

Coltan: Conflict Minerals in the Congo - Mining coltan, is indispensable for the production of mobile phones. The Democratic Republic of Congo is the world's second-largest supplier of this rare mineral. There is no child labour, state controls are carried out, taxes are paid. Those in charge of the mine operate legally. And above all there are no militia groups who finance themselves by smuggling resources. The long civil war is the biggest problem in east Congo – funded by the resource wealth in the ground.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5VZtJDYWNM>

Coltan: Conflict minerals in Congo

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTJwbP9Dg_o

Congo: Blood, gold and mobile phones: Democratic Republic of Congo's rush for an estimated £15tn in gold and rare earth minerals is fuelling a culture of violence and forced labour and exploiting some of the most vulnerable people on earth. At Kamituva gold mine in South Kivu Province, women are raped while men work for 33p per day

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGuG0Ios8ZA>

In Focus: Congo's Bloody Coltan

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OWj1ZGn4uM>

Conflicted: The Fight over Congo's Minerals

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27BZgQ5ln0w>

Exposing the Inhumane conditions of Burkina Faso's Gold Mines: Under Blaise Compaore's leadership, Burkina Faso's unregulated gold rush has had a devastating effect on mining conditions. This report digs deep into the industry, exposing the corruption beneath Compaore's ruling. Millions of people - including children as young as fourteen - mine in an unregulated industry for a few golden grams of hope.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7iv1fef6go>

Fool's Gold – Africa Investigates: Ghana is the second-largest producer of gold on the continent and is now home to a large network of gold fraudsters. Investors have lost millions at their hands. Africa Investigates goes undercover to lift the lid on this illusory pot of gold.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4T-xwFNQto>

The price of gold: Chinese mining in Ghana documentary - Ghana has had a gold rush but here, Afua Hirsch discovers how Chinese immigrants are profiting from industrialising the country's small-scale mining industry.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohrrE1rjzLo>

Documentaries:

Natural Resource Documentaries: Natural resource documentaries look at the Earth's riches, exploration and the negative consequences of the exploitation. Learn about mining for valuable minerals, oil drilling, or gas fracking. Natural resources documentaries show India's coal fields, Russian iron ore mining, or Arctic oil drilling. You can see what price people and the environment pay for the exploitation of natural resources.

Link: <https://rtd.rt.com/tags/natural-resources-documentaries/>

TO THE LIGHT: This documentary outlines the hopes and struggles of the mining families in Sichuan, West China. For many families, coal mining has become a principal source of income and the only alternative to factory jobs in distant cities. But the mines are notoriously dangerous and thousands are killed every year. This film exposes the perils faced by these miners, the slim rewards and dire consequences when things go wrong.

Link: <http://shearwaterfilms.com/documentary#to-the-light>

DYING FOR GOLD – this documentary confronts Gold mining in South Africa

Link: <https://screenfervor.com/reviews/2019/7/11/dying-for-gold-documentary-confronts-south-africas-gold-mining-history>

FROM THE ASHES: Film about the Coal Industry in the US. This documentary provides a discussion guide at https://www.bbhub.io/dotorg/sites/31/2017/09/From_the-Ashes_GUIDE_V9.pdf

Link: <https://www.fromtheashesfilm.com/>

Information websites:

Name of Org e.g. Global Justice Now:

Who: WDM campaigns for economic justice and an end to poverty.

Offers: Their website has an excellent section on trade. Mostly UK related since Brexit but still lots of good information.

Link: <https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/campaigns/trade-justice>

Name of Org: **Oxfam**

Content: stories, articles, video clips on Natural Resource Justice

Link: Natural Resource Justice - <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/stories/shredding-injustice-fight-hold-powerful-accountable-amazon/>

Campaigns/ Organisations to Link in with:

Justice for Miners Campaign: <http://www.dyingforgold.com/campaign>