

When People Move: Migration/Immigration/Emigration

Activity:

1. Go to the following website and calculate your Ecological Footprint
 - a. Identify how you can reduce your footprint

<http://www.footprintcalculator.org/>
2. Pair up and read one of the following vignettes that you have been randomly assigned to.
 - a. Imagine that this student is in your class. How might their answers differ on the ecological footprint calculator?
 - b. Consider what the differences are between domestic students, immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented students. How might the calculator need to be adjusted to accommodate different student situations?
3. What are the implications for teaching students from diverse backgrounds?
 - a. Imagine you ask your class to use the footprint calculator and then design a revised formula. First construct the variable used in the footprint formula. What variables are missing or should be revised/rewritten to accommodate students from different geographic/ economic situations.

Scenario 1:

Your name is Chol; you are 9 years old and live in Sudan. There is a civil war going on and many militia groups that terrorize villages. One day you are playing at your neighbor's house and some militiamen come storming down the main street with weapons. Your friend's mother takes you both, and you run into some wooded areas near your home to hide. You all are afraid to return because you may be killed, so you keep running away but you are not sure where to go. Eventually you end up in a refugee camp in another country. As a refugee, you will be sent to a host country. You have little choice about where you will end up since you are dependent on sponsors willing to host you.

Scenario 2:

Your name is Jose Luis and you are 18 years old. Your father, mother and three sisters all live in south Texas. Your parents illegally emigrated from the Dominican Republic to escape hard economic times. Your father decided that he could find work as a farm hand, and he takes you out of school to travel with him. This way your mother only must care for 3 children on her own, and he will have a traveling companion. You were pulled out of school at age 7 and have lived in with your dad out of a car for the past 11 years. You are now 18 and must decide if you want to change your life. You read and write at a second-grade level.

Scenario 3:

Your name is Sayed Zachariah. You are an Afghan living in New York City. You are from an educated family, and grew up in the Philippines while your father was a banker for the World Bank. You came to the US to go to college. You became a teacher, and were sponsored by your employers (work-visa). You got into an argument with your employers at a Charter school because they unfairly dismissed your colleague without consulting the other teachers. Your employers threaten to fire you, which would terminate your visa. You have ten days to notify the INS or face deportation to Afghanistan, a country in which you have never lived. Your family name is well known because they are anti-Taliban. You most likely will be killed if you return.

Scenario 4:

Your name is Rosemary and you are 11. You are a Navajo Indian and have grown up in northern Arizona. You have a younger sister and an older brother. Your parents raise sheep but live very modestly. You want extra money to buy new clothes, so in the summer you get a ride from your brother and set up a stand near the Grand Canyon. Sometimes your grandfather comes to give you company. You sell homemade jewelry that your family has been making for generations. Your parents get a letter from the BIA stating that they have decided to not build a new school on your reservation. If your parents want you to have a better education, they must send you to live with a foster family in San Diego, CA for nine months each year. You are very close to your grandparents and can't imagine being separated and not learning your customs and family crafts.

