

## RESOURCE/ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

\*\* involves at least a basic understanding of various topics and subjects

\* **Natural sciences:** biology (ecology, zoology, botany, etc);  
chemistry (biochemistry, organic, etc); atmospheric sciences;  
oceanography; geology; physics; etc.

**EX:** interactions within each of these areas AND between each AND in various combinations; not just how a particular species lives, but how does it interact with other species, with non-biotic (abiotic) elements of its environment (air, water, soil, chemicals, etc.); AND then, what happens if there are changes

\* **Economic systems:** effects of **agricultural systems vs industrial systems**,  
OR capitalist vs socialist vs ?? OR ???

\* Use of resources, types and amounts, with each type of system; same or different

\* Level and types of pollution from these activities.

\* **Political systems:** **business friendly vs. environmentally friendly** or a mixture of the two and at what ratio. \* Favor exploitation of resources or conservation or a mixture

Intensive subsistence agriculture

Think about trade-offs!

\* **Cultural systems:** Strong feelings of being a **part of nature** or being above, better than, **separate from nature** or **somewhere in between**. How do we see ourselves in relation to nature.

Environmental World views- Atomistic vs. Holistic

\* what is "Nature"?

\* exploitation vs conservation vs sensible use vs no use vs ???

- \* reuse, recycle
- \* **Geography of resource supplies:** **where** are they, **who controls them**, **availability** both physically & economically
  - \* amounts of each type
  - \* flow to and through human systems
  - \* renewability, reusability, recycle ability.

### \*\*\* Common Themes in Resource/Environment Issues

- \* **Human Population issues:** increasing or decreasing population,
  - \* **carrying capacity:** minimal vs optimal, **BUT at what standard of living**
  - \* Idea of an **ecological footprint:** the amount of land needed to produce the resources needed by an average person in a country

**EX:** by some estimates it would take the **land area of 3 planet Earth's** if all the world's 7.09 billion people consumed the same amount of resources as is consumed by the people in the more developed countries

- \* **Urban vs Suburban vs Rural** resource use
  - \* differences between them, and similarities
  - \* Quantities used in one location vs another, for overall resource use **AND** for particular resources.
  - \* spatial and temporal extent and differences

**EX:** is the same amount of gasoline used by a person living in downtown Atlanta vs Stone Mountain or Buford vs rural Putnam County; the same amount of electricity, water, etc.

- \* **Sustainability of resources**

- \* controlling the harvesting, collecting, mining, etc. of the resource and doing so in as environmentally safe manner as possible
- \* controlling the consumption levels of the resource
- \* reusing, recycling, renewing the resource as much as possible
- \* controlling the degradation of the resource

#### \* **Global-scale Effects**

- \* "Think globally, Act Locally"
- \* What are the consequences of doing something in the US on the environment & the people of Africa or Asia, etc., and vice versus
- \* applies to consumption of, degradation of, pollution from and so on, for all the resources being used

#### \* **Knowledge & values**

- \* How Knowledgable are the people making the decisions
- \* How knowledgable are the people electing or appointing the people making the decisions?
- \* What are their interests, priorities, and values regarding the environment and resource use? alternate motives ?
- \* What cultural-value system(s) or constraints do they live/work within regards to the environment and resource use?