Sustainability:
How Our Actions Affect the Environment

Student worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. **Defining sustainability.**

   a. Write down in your own words what you think “sustainability” means.

   b. Write down the definition of “sustainability” your class came up with.

2. **Exploring Your Environmental Impact**

   a. Circle the topic that you are assigned to in your group.

   Food Water Energy Stuff

   b. Read through the information provided by your teacher to learn more about your topic. You can also do your own research or use the references listed in your materials to find more information.

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c. Follow the steps below to use the Your Plan, Your Planet tool.
    i. In your browser, type https://yourplanyourplanet.sustainability.google/ to open the Your Plan, Your Planet tool.
    ii. Take some time to explore the tool. Only click through the area that you are assigned to (food, water, energy, or stuff).
    iii. Explore this area in depth. Click through each of the steps and follow the instructions given by Your Plan, Your Planet. While going through each step,
        - Make notes of the everyday activities you identified within your area that are bad for the environment.
        - Find evidence for how each activity affects the environment. Where possible, describe the effects using numbers and units of measurements like "gallons of water" or "tons of CO_2."
        - Investigate how your environmental impact changes when you change your settings for each step. You can navigate back to the beginning of your assigned area by clicking on the "Discover your impact" button on the dashboard page of your area. You will get to the dashboard page once you have clicked through all steps for your assigned area. Alternatively, you can go back to individual steps using the browser back button or start from the beginning by clicking on the Google logo.

d. Use this space to write down anything you think is important while using Your Plan, Your Planet, reading the information from your teacher, or finding information on your own.

e. Find all the other students in your class that are assigned to the same topic as you. As a group, discuss the questions below.
    - Which everyday actions related to your topic have a negative effect on the environment? List some examples below.

 Name: _____

- How do these actions impact the environment? Can you measure their impact? Provide an example below.

- How can you change your actions to reduce your impact on the environment? List some suggestions below.

f. Go back to your original group and tell them about what you learned.

g. As a group, use your combined knowledge to create a flyer or graphic for social media that raises awareness about what others can do to reduce their environmental impact. Include information for all of the four areas: food, water, energy, and stuff. Below, list the main points that you want to communicate on your flyer:

3. Reflection

a. Write down below what you learned from using the Your Plan, Your Planet tool. Were you surprised by any of the activities and their impacts, or tips mentioned by the tool?

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4. Making Your Presentation (optional)

a. As a group, make a short presentation about what you learned. The checklist below gives you more details on what to include in your presentation. Make sure to check the list before and after making your slides, so you do not forget anything.

- ☐ Include the presentation title and team names on the first slide
- ☐ List activities that you found that have an impact on the environment
- ☐ Provide evidence for how each of these activities affects the environment
- ☐ Talk about how you can reduce your ecological impact
- ☐ Share what you have learned in this lesson and from using Your Plan, Your Planet
- ☐ Do not include more than five slides in your presentation
- ☐ Add pictures, graphs, or animations to your slides

b. Decide on who in your group is presenting which part of the presentation. Think about what you want to talk about in each slide and practice the presentation at least once before presenting it to your class.