Environmental Justice PBL Explore

Quarter 1, 2019-2020

Living near a hazardous waste landfill significantly increases the risk of health problems, including cancer, asthma, birth defects, and poisoning. Consequently, no one wants to live near a hazardous waste landfill. However, a 1983 study by the General Accounting Office of Congress found that 75% of the hazardous waste landfill sites in the southeastern United States were located in low income, African-American and Latino communities. The environmental justice movement fights against this deliberate overexposure of poor and minority citizens to negative environmental conditions, and also draws attention to the importance of trying to protect the environment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30xLg2HHg8Q>

In this PBL Explore, you will select an environmental justice issue and conduct a scientific investigation to determine how it affects different Memphis communities. Based on your findings, you will advocate for better policies in Memphis related to your environmental justice issue.

The following are some common environmental issues for urban areas in America. You may use one of these, or choose your own topic for investigation.

Air pollution

Water quality

Urban green space

Lead poisoning

Transit justice

Industrial sites and illegal waste dumping

Food deserts

Requirements of this PBL Explore:

* Define your problem (issue) and your project
* Determine if Memphis has any policy related to your project issue
* Conduct an investigation to learn about your issue in Memphis
* Create a data table for your results of your investigation
* Find other related data to build your knowledge and understanding of the problem
* Interpret the results of your data and the related data to form conclusions
* Propose 2 or more action steps to improve the situation in Memphis or to safeguard against environmental discrimination
* Present your results to an audience (to include adults with an interest in this issue)