

Dream of a Nation
Citizen Stewardship

Infographic

1. Can the carrying capacity of the earth be effectively predicted? Using what methods?
2. What are the breakdown products of plastic water bottles?

Unified In Stewardship

1. Why did the Convention on Biological Diversity assert that biodiversity was the most vulnerable global component to be threatened by current levels of pollution?
2. How is biocentric equality, according to Paul Taylor, not “...constitute a moral norm. It is a factual aspect of biological reality, to be understood as a set of causal connections in ordinary empirical terms”?

Staying Within Our Limits

3. How does modern technology and science threaten the natural process of environmental resistance and unequally enforce carrying capacity and other limiting factors?
4. Is ecological restoration a viable goal for American society? Why or why not?

Living Lighter

5. How is less material wealth necessary for greater ecological wealth?
6. Paul Taylor wants people to see the earth's system as teleological, which he defines as the evidence of a design or purpose in nature. He believes phenomena are guided not only by mechanical forces but that life moves towards certain goals of self-realization. What are the benefits and limits of this line of thought?

Citizens Shaping Their World

7. How were biosphere reserves initiated by local stakeholders and how can this serve as a model for future projects?
8. How are brownfields less desirable for ecological rehabilitation? What can brownfield inhabitants do to make these large tracts of land safely inhabitable?

Post-Reading Questions

9. In the more-is-better economy we've been trained to believe that unlimited choice is necessary for personal fulfillment. Watch [this video](#) by psychologist Barry Schwartz and write a short response detailing his argument and whether you agree or disagree.
10. In the consumption versus conservation debate people often cite the need for citizens to decrease their personal energy consumption but rarely does the argument deal with the business community's responsibility for lessening consumption. What role, if any, does the business community have in energy consumption in our society?