1. Click printer icon (top right or center bottom).
2. Change "destination"/printer to **"Save as PDF."**
3. Click "Save."

LC22. Current Event: Environmental Issues

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level: _____Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit the LLC ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs.
Find your SDLA number to see all the resources to finish your SDLA.

Section 1: Thinking about the Environment

1. What environmental issues are you concerned about? Why? What do you think we can do to improve these issues?

_____

_____

_____

2. Look at the pictures. What is the environmental problem in each picture? Write your ideas below.

_____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____

Section 2: Environmental Problems and Solutions

Read the descriptions of environmental problems below. Fill in the chart with information from the description. You will need to fill in "*Possible Solutions"* with your *own* ideas.

Pollution

There are different types of pollution such as air, water, soil, noise, radioactive, and light pollution. The most common of these is air pollution which is the contamination of the atmosphere by carbon dioxide and other gases. Motor vehicles, factories, building construction, forest fires, and volcanic eruptions all negatively affect air quality and purity. There are several effects of air pollution that can be noticed such as increased smog, higher rates of asthma, fewer crops, global warming, and acid rain. Acid rain occurs when some poisonous

gases dissolve into the atmosphere and then fall to the earth. It can damage trees and buildings, and can kill fish in lakes and rivers.

Deforestation

Deforestation is the destruction and conversion of forests, and humans are largely responsible. Large forest areas have been destroyed for farming, housing, businesses, mining, and roads. The trees they cut down are used for building materials, fuel, medicine, food, and paper. According to some estimates, up to half of the world's tropical rain forests have already been cleared for these purposes. The majority of earth's plants and animals live in forests, and as we take away the forests, we are also taking away their home. Rainforests help to control global warming because they absorb carbon dioxide. When a tree falls, it releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and this contributes to global warming. Based on the current rate of deforestation, the world's rain forests could vanish within 100 years!

Ozone Layer Depletion

One of the most important current environmental problems is the depletion of the ozone layer. The ozone layer is an invisible layer of protection around the planet that protects us from the sun's harmful rays, which can damage our skin and cause cancer or eye problems. Scientists have recently discovered that toxic gases called clorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are used in refrigerators, aerosol cans and in the manufacturing of some plastic products. Once these CFCs reach the upper atmosphere, they cause a hole in the ozone layer. To prevent this issue from getting worse, CFCs are banned in many industries and consumer products. Additionally, some companies now make aerosols that do not contain CFCs, and these are often marked "Ozone Friendly".

Adapted from: British Council 2010 www.teachingenglish.org.uk

Problem:	Causes:	Environmental Damage:	Possible Solutions:
Pollution			
Deforestation			
Ozone Layer Depletion			

Section 3: Expressing Certainty

Part 1: The expressions below express different degrees of certainty. Write the expressions below in the correct box in the chart. The first one has already been done as an example.

I'm certain that . . .	It's fairly certain that. . .	Probably
It's likely that. . .	I'm absolutely sure . . .	Possibly
I'm not sure if. . .	Perhaps/Maybe . . .	As far as I'm aware, . . .
There's no doubt that	To the best of my knowledge, . . .	

Certain	50% Certain	Uncertain
I'm certain that . . .		

Part 2: What do you think? Decide if you think the following sentences:

A) Will happen **in the next 50 years**. (Certain)

B) Might happen **in the next 50 years**. (50% Certain / Uncertain)

Mark the sentences **A** (Certain) or **B** (50% Certain / Uncertain)

_____ 1) All cars will be electric.

_____ 2) Much of the food and crops we have now will not be available.

_____ 3) People will continue to sunbathe.

_____ 4) People will recycle all their bags, cans and paper.

_____ 5) Almost all the rainforests will disappear.

_____ 6) The next generation will care more about the environment than the present generation.

_____ 7) The climate will get worse (hotter and colder in different parts of the world).

_____ 8) We will have more forests than we do now.

_____ 9) In presidential elections "Green Issues" will become more important than any other.

_____ 10) People will completely destroy the earth.

Be prepared to talk about the sentences above with the tutor using the certainty expressions

| Section 4: What Did I Learn |

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do this YET.	I can do this WITH help.	I can do this WITHOUT help.	I can TEACH this to a classmate.
I can identify causes and effects of environmental issues from a reading passage				
I can develop possible solutions for environmental issues				
I can use expressions of certainty to talk about environmental issues				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.

Good Job!

Now make an appointment

with a tutor on the LLC ESL Tutoring Website

(www.mtsac.edu/llc/passportrewards/llctutoring).

Section 5: Practice with a Tutor!

After completing the self- assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to the tutor. You will have a discussion with the tutor about the future of our environment using expressions of certainty (Section 3).
The tutor will provide you with feedback in the following areas:

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	Need Practice (0-1 Point)	Good Job (2-3 Points)	Excellent Work (4-5 Points)
Content	Not enough information provided in responses and often does not use correct vocabulary.	Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary.	Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary.
Skill: Speaking	More than 6 mistakes saying words; needs guessing more than 3 times.	Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no guess about meaning.
Oral Fluency	Speaks mostly in phrases, individual words; many pauses.	Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay.

*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on   **Possible Points: _____ / 15**

Tutor Comments:

☐ **Congratulations! Keep going.**
You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.

☐ **Work on this more.**
You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____   Date: _____