

Sharing the Planet: Exploring Our Crowded World

Lesson Overview

Subject: Social Studies / English as a Second Language (ESL)

Level: Grade 3 (8 years old) – IB PYP "Sharing the Planet"

Duration: 1 Hour 30 Minutes (split into two 45-minute sessions)

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define and use key vocabulary: **Population, Overpopulation, Resources, Abundance, and Scarcity.**
- Identify the relationship between the number of people and the availability of resources.
- Demonstrate comprehension of a text about overpopulation through written questions.
- Apply peer-checking skills to give and receive constructive feedback.

Materials Needed

- A small rug, a hula hoop, or a taped-off square on the floor (The "Island").
- 20-30 small items (e.g., pencils, stickers, or building blocks) to represent "Resources."
- Vocabulary flashcards with pictures.
- Comprehension Worksheet (provided by teacher/parent).
- Colored pens for peer checking.
- Large chart paper or a whiteboard.

Part 1: The "Crowded Island" (45 Minutes)

1. The Hook: The Island Game (10 Minutes)

Activity: Place a small rug or hula hoop on the floor. This is "Happy Island."

- **Step 1:** Have 1 or 2 students (or toys if in a 1-on-1 setting) stand on the island. Give them 10 blocks (Resources). *Ask: Is there enough space? Are there enough toys?*
- **Step 2:** Add more students/toys until the island is cramped. Keep the number of blocks the same. *Ask: How do you feel now? Is it easy to move? Is there enough for everyone?*

2. I Do: Building Our Vocabulary (15 Minutes)

Introduce the key terms using simple, 8-year-old friendly language:

- **Population:** The total number of people or animals living in one place.
- **Resources:** Things we need to live, like water, food, and space.
- **Abundance:** When we have a lot of something—more than we need!
- **Scarcity:** When there is not enough of something.
- **Overpopulation:** When there are too many people and not enough resources for everyone to be healthy and happy.

3. We Do: Vocabulary Sort (10 Minutes)

Draw two circles on the board: "**Happy Planet**" and "**Stressed Planet**." Work together to place the vocabulary words and pictures into the circles. (e.g., Abundance goes with Happy Planet; Scarcity goes with Stressed Planet).

4. Formative Check (10 Minutes)

Think-Pair-Share: "If 100 people live in a small house, is that an *abundance* of space or a *scarcity* of space?" Discuss why.

Part 2: Deep Dive & Written Work (45 Minutes)

1. I Do: Contextual Reading (10 Minutes)

The teacher/parent reads a short passage about a forest where too many bunnies are born. The bunnies eat all the grass (Resources), and soon there is no grass left (Scarcity). This is used to model how to look for vocabulary words in a text.

2. You Do: Comprehension Worksheet (20 Minutes)

The student works independently on a comprehension worksheet. The worksheet should include:

- A short paragraph (4-6 sentences) using the 5 key vocabulary words.
- Three "Right There" questions (answers found directly in the text).
- One "Inference" question (e.g., "What might happen if the population keeps growing?").
- A "Draw and Label" section where the student illustrates "Abundance" vs. "Scarcity."

3. Peer Checking / Self-Correction (10 Minutes)

The Strategy: Use the "C.U.P.S." method (Capitalization, Understanding, Punctuation, Spelling).

- **In a classroom:** Swap papers with a partner. Use a green pen to circle correct vocabulary usage and a purple pen to underline things to check.
- **In a homeschool setting:** The student becomes the "Teacher." They use a checklist to check their own work or the work of a "stuffed animal student" (prepared with some mistakes by the parent).

4. Conclusion & Recap (5 Minutes)

The Exit Ticket: The student must use the word "Overpopulation" in a complete sentence to "exit" the lesson or move to the next activity. Summarize: "Today we learned that sharing the planet means making sure there are enough resources for the whole population."

Success Criteria

Learners will know they are successful if they can:

- Match all 5 vocabulary words to their correct definitions.
- Complete the comprehension worksheet with at least 80% accuracy.
- Explain the difference between abundance and scarcity using a real-world example (like food or toys).

Differentiation Strategies

- **For ESL Support:** Provide sentence starters for the worksheet (e.g., "Scarcity means there is not enough...") and use visual flashcards for every term.
- **For Advanced Learners:** Ask them to propose one solution to overpopulation (e.g., "How can we create more resources?").
- **Kinesthetic Learners:** Allow them to act out "Abundance" (big movements, spreading out) and "Scarcity" (huddling, small movements).