

Coal in a sustainable future

Survey

Purpose: to engage interest and determine student opinions about natural resources, particularly coal and the coal industry, human impact on the environment, focussing on the Greenhouse Effect and efforts to minimise that impact. This survey can be used again at the end of the unit to compare student's opinions and knowledge and understanding with their starting position.

Some of the questions have been derived from surveys and questionnaires by the EPA: *Who cares about the Environment: Young people and the Environment: an international study of environmental knowledge and attitudes* and *A Benchmark Survey of the Environmental Knowledge, Values and Attitudes of NSW School Students 2000*.

YOUNG AUSTRALIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

This survey asks questions about your ideas and opinions. They are not marked as right or wrong. The questions are there for you, your classmate and your teacher to collate and learn about what you and your peers think about some important environmental issues.

1. What 3 things concern you most in the world? Tick 3 boxes only

- the hole in the ozone layer
- war
- extinction of plants and animals
- the greenhouse effect
- poor people
- hunger
- pollution

Other... please specify in spaces provided

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Record your opinion by placing a tick in one of the boxes:

a. In the future my local environment will be

Much better	Better	Same	Worse	Much Worse

b. In the future the Australian environment will be

Much better	Better	Same	Worse	Much Worse

c. In the future the global environment will be

Much better	Better	Same	Worse	Much Worse

3. Choose the best answer by placing a tick in the box

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1. I can help the environment				
2. Most people don't care about the environment				
3. The government doesn't do enough for the environment				
4. Business thinks profits are more important than the environment				
5. The coal and electricity industries work hard to reduce their environmental impacts				
6. I think my friends care about the environment				
7. Not all environmental problems can be solved				
8. I think my parents care about the environment				
9. All this talk about the environment is boring				
10. Scientists will solve environmental problems				
11. Kids my age can solve environmental problems				
12. Most people don't know what to do to help the environment				

4. Most of us, in one way or another, probably do things that may be bad for the environment. This might be at home, school, etc. What would you say are the most damaging things, to the environment, about the way you live?

5. Are there improvements? Tick whether you think there has been an improvement over the last 3 years or have things stayed the same or got worse for the listed environmental issues?

Issue	Much better	Better	Same	Worse	Much worse
1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions					
2. Quality of the air					
3. Dealing with industrial emissions					
4. Quietness / control of noise					
5. Prosecuting environmental offenders					
6. Development of cleaner coal technologies					
7. Reducing electricity use					

6. Different people do different things for the environment. Things that can be done to reduce the production of Greenhouse gases are listed. Tick if you do any of the listed “right things” and how often you have been able to do them in the last year.

“Right thing”	often	sometimes	occasionally	never
a. Buy local produce (less transport)				
b. Reduce energy consumption by turning off lights and other appliances e.g. heaters, air conditioners, when room is no longer in use.				
c. Walk or ride a bicycle to school				
d. Turning off stand-by’s e.g. for TV, DVD’s etc, if your house is empty for the day.				
e. Help your parents organise car pools for school or sport				

7. Which one of the following statements do you agree with most?

	Yes	No
a. Australians should concentrate on economic growth even if it means some damage to the environment.		
b. Australians should concentrate on protecting the environment even if it means some loss of economic growth.		
c. Economic growth is bound to be at the expense of the environment		
d. It is possible to have a prosperous economy and a healthy environment		

8. Which answer best describes your desire to be involved in improving the environment?

- A. very strong
- B. strong
- C. medium
- D. weak

9. How would you rate your skills and knowledge to bring about environmental improvements even if only in a small way/

- A. very high
- B. high
- C. medium
- D. low

10. Choose between two options. If you are strongly in favour of the statement on the left, circle number 1, if you are neutral, circle 3 and if you are moderately in favour the statement on the right circle 4.

a. Science and technology have improved our quality of life	◀	1	2	3	4	5	▶	Science and technology have worsened our quality of life
b. Modern technology has reduced our freedom and independence	◀	1	2	3	4	5	▶	Modern technology has increased our freedom and independence
c. Natural resources should be saved for future generations	◀	1	2	3	4	5	▶	Natural resources should be used for the benefit of the present generation
d. Modern industrial countries are very seriously disturbing the balance of nature	◀	1	2	3	4	5	▶	Modern industrial countries are very seriously disturbing the balance of nature
e. The earth is like a space ship, with limited room and resources	◀	1	2	3	4	5	▶	The earth is vast, with almost unlimited room and resources
f. Science and technology will always be able to find solutions to our problems	◀	1	2	3	4	5	▶	Science and technology often create more problems than they solve
g. Complex technologies will always be risky because of the chance of human error	◀	1	2	3	4	5	▶	Complex technologies can be risk-free through continual improvements