

An Interdependent World

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

We live in an interdependent world. Vast international communication and transportation networks link people and nations around the globe.

Contact a local business or organization that is connected in some way with other nations. Perhaps it has branch offices in other countries or sponsors activities there. Find out about these international

connections and how they have affected the business or organization.

Working in Your Community

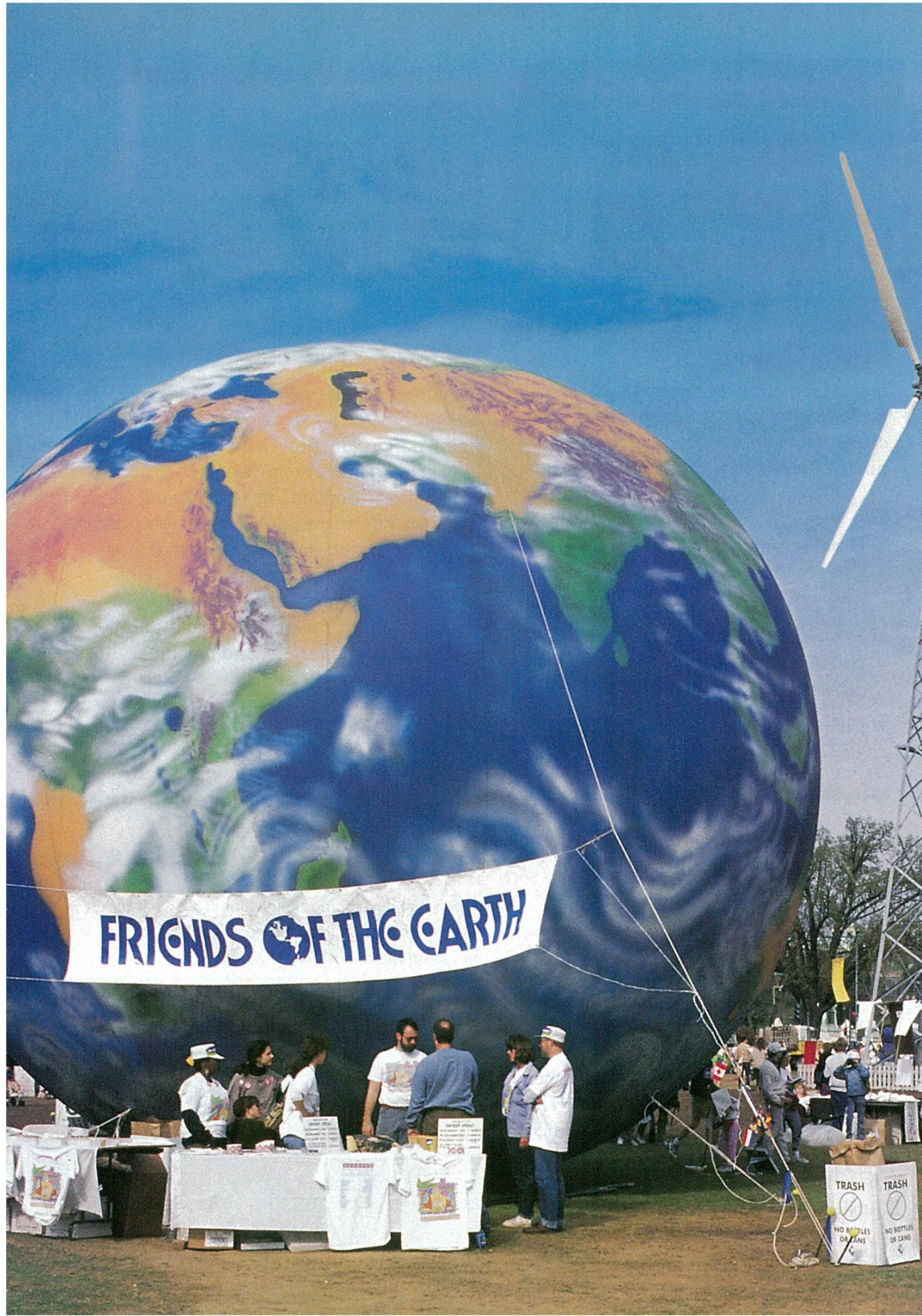
Next ask family members and neighbors about ways in which your community is connected to other parts of the world. Prepare a short fact sheet on the international connections of your community and give it to your local library. ■

Your Civics Journal

As you study this chapter, pay attention to world events. Make a list in your civics journal of the ways in which international developments can affect your life.

Next to each entry, note what you, as an individual, can do about these developments.





FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

TRASH
NO BOTTLES OR CANS

TRASH
NO BOTTLES OR CANS



The Global Economy and Environment

FOCUS

TERMS TO KNOW

interdependence, protectionism, free trade, acid rain, greenhouse effect, conservation, nonrenewable resource, renewable resource

OBJECTIVES

- Discuss some of the characteristics of global **economic development and trade**.
- Explain how nations are interdependent in regard to environmental **pollution and conservation**.
- Identify and describe several major **world health** problems.

Today every country depends on other countries for some of the things it needs to survive. The United States depends on Saudi Arabia and other countries for oil. Russia depends on the United States and other countries for agricultural products. The relationship among nations in which they depend on one another for products, services, and raw materials is called **interdependence**.

Economic Development and Trade

Intense competition and economic cooperation characterize today's global, interdependent economy. A country's economic success depends a great deal on how it deals with this competition and how it cooperates with other nations.

Economic Development

Although the economies and interests of the world's developed and developing nations are quite different, they are interdependent. The prosperous industrial nations depend on developing nations for raw materials such as iron ore, nickel, and zinc and for crops such as sugarcane and rice. The poorer, developing nations of the world depend on industrial nations for manufactured goods such as cars, computers, and machinery.

Global Interdependence

Global interdependence has been a major factor in the economic success of some developing nations. During the

Interdependence Industrialized nations depend on developing nations for crops such as rice. *For what do developing nations depend on industrial nations?*





International Cooperation Leaders of the world's major industrialized nations attend regular summits to discuss trade and economic matters. *What are some problems associated with international trade?*

past 30 years, for example, international trade has given a big boost to the economies of South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore. The British colony of Hong Kong has also been successful in developing its economy. In 1997 Hong Kong became part of China. The Chinese government has said that it will allow Hong Kong to continue operating a capitalist economy.

Many industrial nations try to help developing nations improve their economies through foreign aid and technical assistance. American businesses help by investing money to build factories, which provide jobs and training. United States citizens help developing nations by serving as volunteers to teach important skills such as modern methods of farming.

Global Trade

The most important aspect of economic interdependence is global trade. Trade involves both competition and cooperation. Nations compete for markets for their products. They also cooperate to

make trade beneficial for everyone involved.

Global trade has many advantages. Businesses can make greater profits by selling to a large world market. Increased competition among businesses worldwide may result in lower prices for consumers and a greater range of products from which they can choose.

Global trade can also lead to problems. Competition can cost some workers their jobs, and businesses may lose money to foreign competitors. Furthermore, if a country buys more products than it sells in the world market, it has a trade deficit, which may damage its economy.

Nations often try to reduce trade deficits and economic competition by placing tariffs on foreign goods. The policy of erecting tariff barriers is called **protectionism**. Protectionist policies often harm the economies of nations and the global economy. They may cause price increases, making consumers pay more for products. They may also lead to trade wars, in which nations set up

greater trade barriers and try to block more products from entering the country. Trade wars can create serious tensions between nations.

Trade Agreements

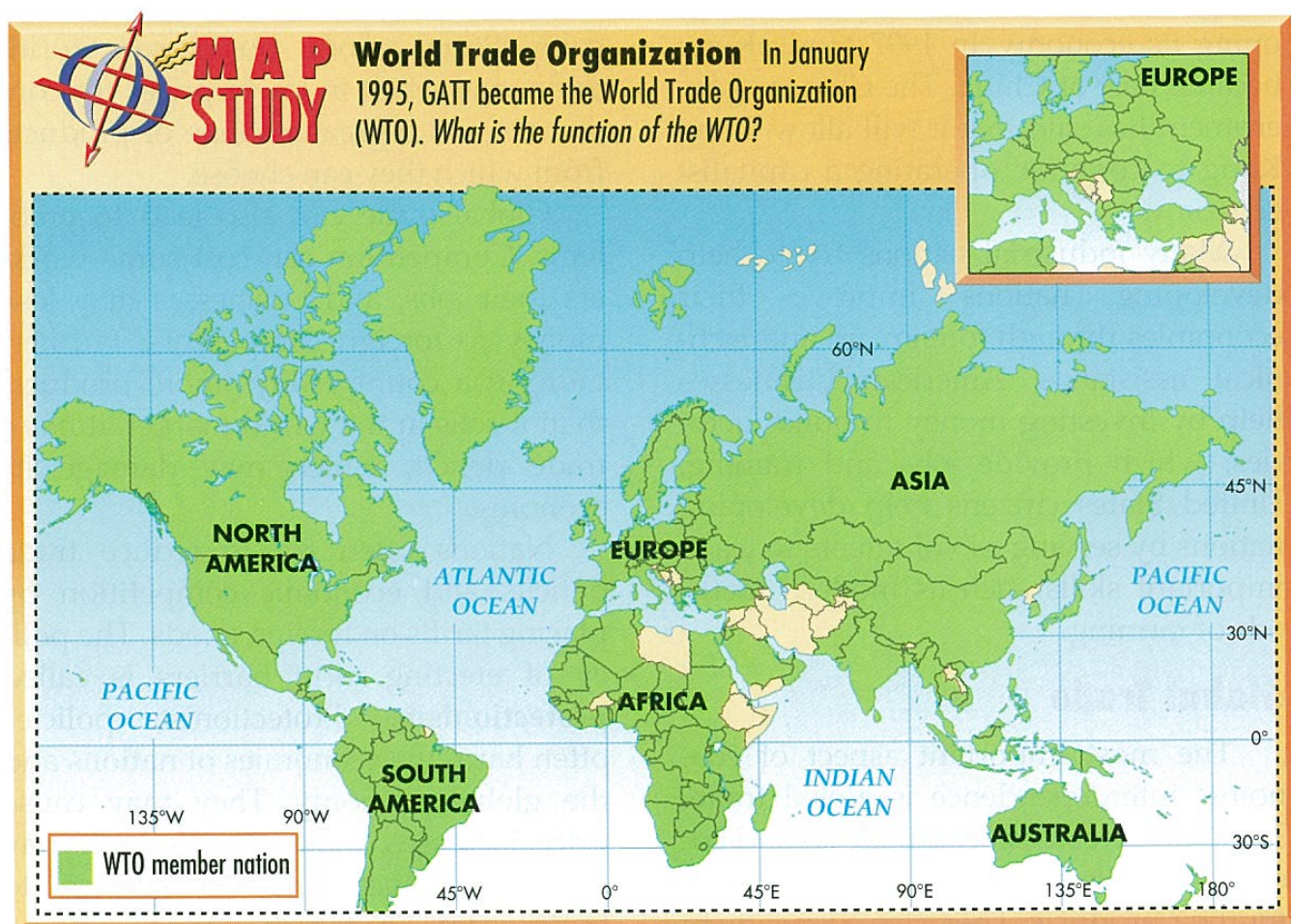
Many countries now support a policy of **free trade** that aims to eliminate tariffs and other economic barriers. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which took effect in January 1994, will gradually abolish all trade barriers between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. An even more ambitious trade agreement is the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). This agreement, involving more than 150 nations, created the World Trade Organization (WTO) that will work to reduce tariffs among all members and eliminate quotas on imported goods.

Pollution and Conservation

The world is not only economically interdependent. It is also environmentally interdependent. When one country pollutes its environment, the effects often extend far beyond its borders.

Pollution

Although pollution is found in all parts of the world, some of the worst situations are in countries that tried to industrialize rapidly. In Russia and the nations of eastern Europe, for example, efforts to industrialize without concern for the environment have caused severe pollution. In developing nations, lack of adequate sanitation or other pollution controls has often resulted in serious problems.



Customs Inspector

When traveling to other countries, you have to pass through “customs.” Customs inspectors are responsible for enforcing laws that regulate the flow of goods into a country.

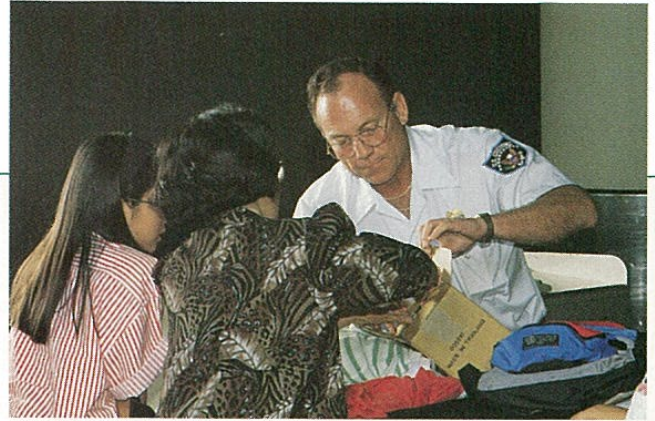
Duties

The United States Customs Service employs thousands of customs inspectors. Much of their work is done behind the scenes, where they process applications for goods entering the country and inspect shipments that arrive. Customs inspectors also work in public. They examine the belongings of travelers entering the United States to look for prohibited items such as narcotics, ani-

mals, and plants. Customs inspectors also check travelers’ purchases. If the value of the goods exceeds a certain amount, the traveler must pay a duty, or tax.

Education

Customs inspectors must be high school graduates and have some further education or law enforcement experience. It is useful for customs workers to know a foreign language and to take courses



Customs inspection

in business and law. To become a customs inspector, an applicant must pass a civil service test. Customs workers may be stationed at any port or point of entry along the United States border or at any international airport within the United States.



Write to or e-mail the United States Customs Service to learn what types of jobs they have available as well as the qualifications required. Use the information you receive to create a help wanted bulletin board. If possible, illustrate the bulletin board.

The effects of water and air pollution extend far from the source. Oil from a damaged tanker spreads along the coastline, killing fish and wildlife. A chemical called sulfur dioxide released by coal-burning factories is carried hundreds of miles through the air. The sulfur dioxide mixes with water vapor and later falls to earth as **acid rain**. Thus sulfur dioxide from factories in the Midwest may fall as acid rain in Canada, damaging forests and raising the acid level in hundreds of

Canadian lakes. The higher acid level of the water kills many fish. The United States and Canada have formed a joint commission to explore solutions to the acid rain problem.

The Greenhouse Effect

The burning of coal and oil also contributes to the **greenhouse effect**, a gradual warming of the atmosphere. When burned, these products release carbon



Conserving Resources New England's once-thriving fishing industry is now paying the price for overfishing. *What are some of the benefits of conserving resources?*

dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere. As these gases build, the effect is like that of a greenhouse, allowing the sun's heat to enter the atmosphere but preventing it from escaping.

The destruction of forests contributes to the greenhouse effect because trees absorb carbon dioxide. Trees are the earth's natural protection against carbon dioxide buildup. As millions of acres of forest—particularly in Latin America—are cut down each year, this natural protection is lost. Up to now the greenhouse effect has caused only minor problems. Experts disagree over whether global warming is a temporary or a long-term trend.

Conservation

To help the environment, countries must work to end pollution within their own borders. They must also work with other nations to solve pollution problems

that extend beyond national borders. An important way of controlling pollution is through **conservation**, or efforts to limit the use of resources that cause pollution.

These resources are classified as non-renewable or renewable. **Nonrenewable resources**, such as oil and minerals, are resources that are gone forever once they are used. **Renewable resources**, such as trees and fish, are resources that grow back or renew themselves. Renewable resources can become scarce if they are used too rapidly. One of the world's richest fishing grounds, in the Atlantic Ocean, has a shortage of some species of fish because too many have been removed. As a result, the fishing industry in New England is on the verge of collapse.

Results of Conservation

Conserving resources will help ensure that they are available when they are needed. Conservation can also help lessen the impact of pollution. Conserving gasoline cuts back on the amount of gases that pollute the atmosphere. Conserving forests slows global warming by leaving more trees to absorb carbon dioxide.

Some people criticize conservation efforts, claiming that they slow economic growth by making resources unavailable. Others argue that a lack of conservation may produce short-term economic benefits but result in long-term problems. Not dealing with air pollution, for example, may lead to changes in climate, destruction of forests and lakes, and more health problems as people breathe polluted air.

Global Environment

In recent years many nations have become increasingly concerned about the global environment. In 1992 a major conference on the environment was held in

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This Earth Summit brought together representatives from 178 nations, who discussed ways of protecting the environment. Leaders signed treaties, pledging to safeguard the diversity of animal and plant species and to halt global warming. Although the environment has already been damaged, further damage may be prevented if nations remain willing to cooperate.

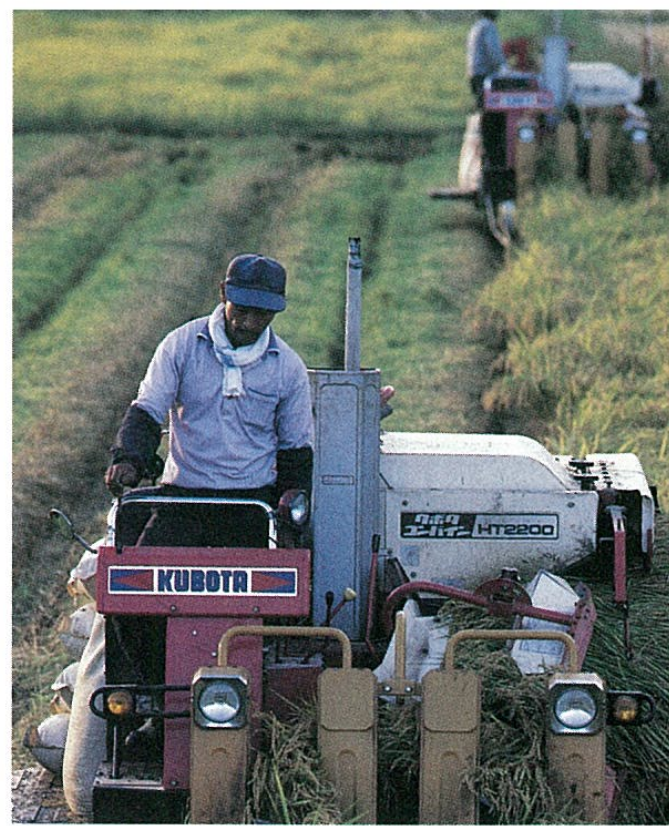
World Health

The issue of world health is related to both the global economy and the environment because poverty and pollution affect people's health. Poor countries often lack adequate food, which results in hunger and malnutrition. They may also lack adequate sanitation, which can lead to the spread of disease. Both air and water pollution can contribute to illness.

Hunger

The most pressing health problem of developing nations is hunger. More than 1 billion people, many of them in developing nations, do not receive enough food. An estimated 15 million people, mostly children, die of hunger or hunger-related causes each year. As world population continues to grow, hunger will become an even greater problem for many nations.

Developed nations have worked hard to end world hunger. The United States and other countries have contributed billions of dollars' worth of food to developing countries. They have also contributed billions more in financial aid. Private organizations, such as Oxfam America, also raise millions of dollars each year for hunger relief.



Green Revolution Improved farming techniques have helped farmers in developing nations grow more crops. *What are some other achievements of the Green Revolution?*

Green Revolution

Much of this financial aid is spent on research. In the 1960s and 1970s, scientists developed better seeds and new fertilizers. These products, along with improved farming techniques, began the "Green Revolution," which enabled farmers in many developing nations to grow more and better crops. The Green Revolution had some success, but it did not end world hunger. Many developing nations could not afford new supplies and equipment. Others lacked adequate water to support modern farming methods. Population growth also outstripped the ability of many nations to meet their food needs even though they were using new crops and techniques.

A lack of food is not the only factor that contributes to hunger. Some countries lack transportation to get food from farms to markets. Droughts and floods



Health Infectious diseases are still major killers in many developing countries. *What factors contribute to the spread of these diseases?*

can wipe out food supplies. Political problems, such as civil wars, can also interfere with raising crops and distributing food.

Disease

Disease is a major health problem in all countries. Most developed nations, with their advanced medical care and “wonder drugs,” have curbed many infectious diseases. In many developing nations, however, cholera, typhus, and other infectious diseases can erupt quickly and kill millions of people. These countries lack adequate medical care, and their poverty leads to malnutrition, unsanitary conditions, and other factors that contribute to disease.

In recent years new health dangers have emerged. In the early 1980s, the AIDS epidemic began. AIDS is a viral disease that destroys the body’s immune system. By 1994 about 14 million people worldwide were infected with HIV, the

virus that causes AIDS. So far, medical science has been unable to find a cure.

Some experts think that new diseases may be emerging because of changes in the environment. As people destroy tropical forests, they may release diseases that have remained hidden within animal populations. Some of these diseases can spread to people. The greatest danger is that such diseases could spread rapidly around the globe. Modern transportation allows disease to spread more quickly and to a wider area.

Fortunately, modern medicine has reduced the impact of many diseases. In 1994, for example, an outbreak of pneumonic plague in India was brought under control before it could reach epidemic proportions. The challenge is to find new medicines and techniques to fight diseases, both the old ones that still threaten human life and the new ones that may emerge in the future.

★ SECTION 1 REVIEW ★

UNDERSTANDING VOCABULARY

Define interdependence, protectionism, free trade, acid rain, greenhouse effect, conservation, nonrenewable resource, renewable resource.

REVIEWING OBJECTIVES

- 1 What are some of the characteristics of global economic development and trade?
- 2 In what ways are nations interdependent in regard to environmental pollution and conservation?
- 3 What are several major world health problems?



Using a Database

A database can help you to organize information in a way that is most useful for you.

Learning the Skill

An electronic database is a collection of facts that has been stored in files on a computer. Information is organized in different fields. For example, one field might be the years in which an event takes place. Another field could be made up of the types of events. You can create your own database to best reflect your needs. When your database has been set up, you can tell the computer to search and retrieve information and display it on the screen.

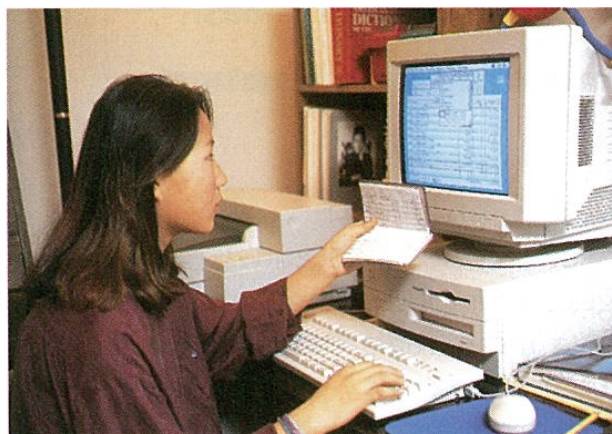
Practicing the Skill

To build a database about environmental protection, follow these steps:

- Decide what you want to include. For example, do you want to include important events and influential people? Should you include dates when important legislation was enacted? Should you include specific statistics?
- Follow instructions in your computer program to set up fields. Then enter each item of data in its assigned field. Take as much time as you need to complete this step. Inaccurately placed information will be difficult to retrieve.
- Determine how you want to organize the facts in the database.

Keep in mind that you want this information to be more useful to you. You want to make it as easy to use as possible.

- Follow the instructions in your computer program to sequence the information in order of importance.
- Check a reliable source to verify that you have all the information you need and that it is correct. You may add, delete, or change information. It will be easier, however, if you begin with as much information in your database as possible.



Balancing Accounts

APPLYING THE SKILL

Build a database to support a search for information about the greenhouse effect. Write a brief paragraph describing how your database is set up.



The Global Community

FOCUS

TERM TO KNOW

genocide

OBJECTIVES

- Discuss ways individuals can help in **solving environmental problems**.
- Discuss ways individuals can help in **safeguarding human rights**.
- Explain what individuals can do to assume a greater role in **participating in world affairs**.

The world is so large and its challenges so complex that many people believe individuals cannot make a difference. When a flood in Bangladesh drowns several hundred thousand people, other people are sorry. When rain forests are destroyed, people may feel regret. When a government tortures its citizens, people get angry. These same people, however, often think they can do nothing about these situations.

Yet people can make a difference. Although the world is led by governments, it is made up of individuals. By themselves, individuals may seem weak, but they have imagination and energy. They can see problems and decide to do something about them.

Solving Environmental Problems

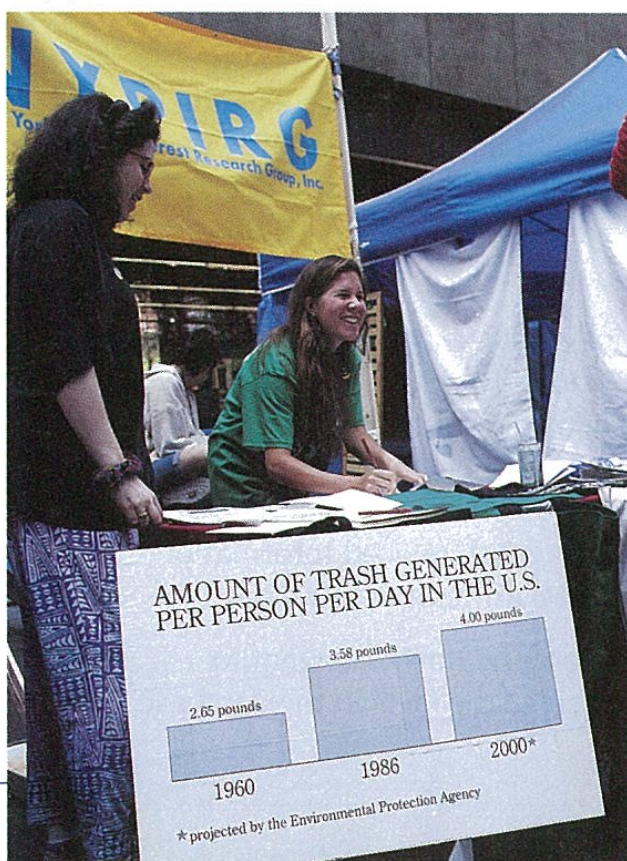
The environment is one area in which individuals can make a difference. As an individual, you can help preserve the environment by using resources wisely and avoiding waste. Recycle paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum, and plastic. Turn off lights and appliances when you are not using them. Open windows instead of using an air conditioner. Buy products made of recycled material and products in reusable containers.

You can also help by staying informed about environmental issues and expressing your opinions to local, state, or national leaders and to those responsible for environmental problems. Finally, you can volunteer your time to help improve the environment. Most communities have local organizations devoted to

Individuals Making a Difference

Many people volunteer their time and energy to help improve their community environment.

What are some actions an individual can take to help preserve the environment?



the environment. Join an organization and help with its activities. Volunteer groups can help clean up dump sites, set up recycling centers, and educate others about environmental issues.

A popular environmental slogan is, "Think globally; act locally." The point of this is that, by doing something on a local level, you will also be helping the global environment.

Safeguarding Human Rights

Human rights is a continuing concern of the United States. Throughout its history, our nation has struggled to preserve human rights both here and around the world.

One important human rights issue is the plight of refugees. During this century millions of people have fled their homelands because of war, persecution, famine, or natural disaster. These refugees are at the mercy of their host nation. They are often forced to live in crowded refugee camps, where life can be extremely harsh.

The stream of refugees fleeing their homelands continues today. In 1994 ethnic strife in the African nation of Rwanda caused millions to flee the country. In Europe many fled war-torn Bosnia when war began there in 1992. In both of these countries, many people fled because of the fear of **genocide**, the mass killing of an entire group of people. The crisis in Rwanda began as a genocidal attack of one ethnic group against another. In Bosnia thousands of Bosnian Muslims were massacred under a policy of "ethnic cleansing."

Another human rights issue is the persecution of individuals or groups

who hold different ideas and beliefs from the people in power. Sometimes those in power persecute people of a different racial or ethnic background.

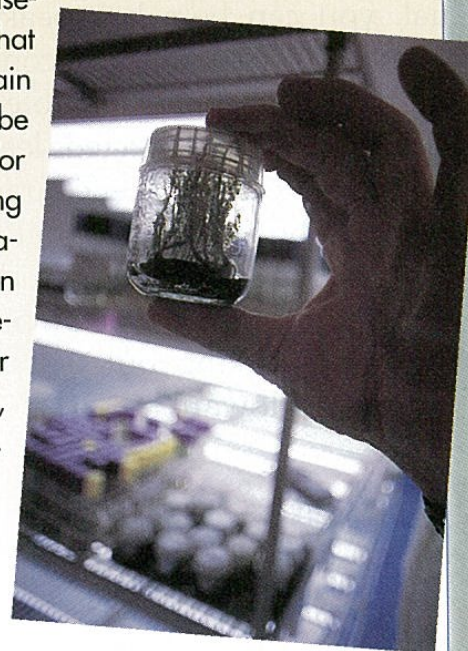
DID YOU KNOW?

The Healing Power of Rain Forests

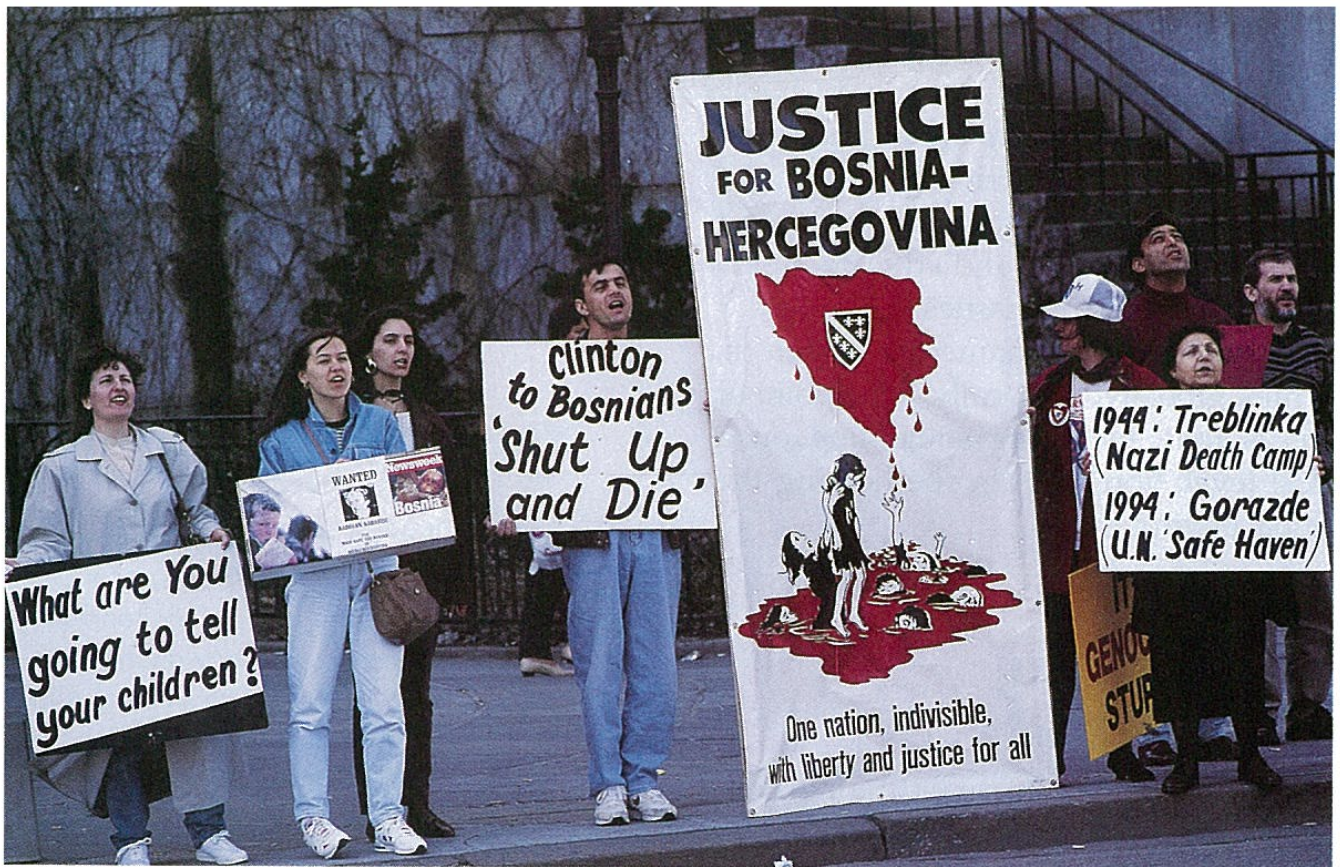
Nearly half of all medicines prescribed in this country come from plants, animals, and microorganisms found in the environment. In searching for new drugs, many pharmaceutical companies are focusing on tropical rain forests. Scientists estimate that a staggering 30 to 50 million species of living things remain to be discovered in the world, many of them in the rain forests. No one knows what new wonder drugs these might produce.

Several pharmaceutical companies now provide funds to governments and private organizations in countries such as Costa Rica that have large rain forests. This money is used for rain forest research. In return, the pharmaceutical companies receive plant and animal samples they can screen for medicinal value.

Pharmaceutical companies stand to reap huge profits from these new medicines. A welcome consequence is that the world's rain forests may be preserved for their healing potential rather than being destroyed for lumber, ranches, and farmland.



Rain forest research



Campaigning for Human Rights American citizens can influence the outcome of events around the world. *How can they do this?*

The United States and many other nations are concerned about these human rights issues, and they use foreign policy, trade, and other means to try to deal with the problems. As an individual, you can help by speaking out on human rights issues and contributing to organizations that are devoted to human rights. Let your elected leaders know your opinions, and encourage them to sponsor human rights initiatives. You can also safeguard human rights by respecting others in your own community and by speaking out against violence and hatred toward others.

Participating in World Affairs

Before you can do anything to change the world, you must become familiar with the world and the events that

happen in it. The best way to do this is to read newspapers and magazines and watch TV news reports. If you have a home computer, it can also connect you to information about the world.

Learning About the World

If you really want to understand world affairs, you must also learn how people in other countries think and feel. To do this, you can read translations of articles and books by foreign writers, study a foreign language so that you can read foreign newspapers and magazines, and make an effort to meet and talk with people from different backgrounds. You might also be able to travel to other countries or talk to people who have done so.

As an individual, you can help relieve poverty, hunger, and disease throughout the world by contributing time or money to charitable organizations, such as the



Multicultural Awareness Studying a foreign language is a stepping-stone toward understanding another culture. *Why is it important to learn about people in other countries?*

International Red Cross and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which send medicine and food that help save human lives.

Participating Through the Political Process

Your greatest power to change the world, however, lies in your rights as an American citizen. Your voice, through your elected representatives, can affect world affairs. You can campaign and vote for candidates whose views you support. You can write to your representatives and express your ideas and opinions. You can join a political party or other political organization and work together with citizens who share your ideas. One day you may even decide to run for office yourself.

The United States is a powerful and respected nation, and the decisions of its

leaders affect the lives of people throughout the world. As a citizen of the United States, your decisions also affect the lives of all people.

★ SECTION 2 REVIEW ★

UNDERSTANDING VOCABULARY

Define genocide.

REVIEWING OBJECTIVES

- 1 What are three things individuals can do to help solve environmental problems?
- 2 What can individuals do to help safeguard human rights?
- 3 What can individuals do to assume a greater role in participating in world affairs?

Identifying Key Terms

Choose the vocabulary term that best completes each of the sentences below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

renewable resource greenhouse effect
free trade protectionism
nonrenewable resource conservation

1. The President's belief in _____ caused him to oppose tariffs.
2. Some scientists are concerned about global warming brought on by the _____.
3. The country had a policy of _____, with high trade tariffs.
4. Trees are an example of a(n) _____, which can be replenished with careful management.
5. Minerals are an example of a(n) _____, which cannot be restored once it is gone.
6. The use of resources that cause pollution can be limited through _____.

Reviewing the Main Ideas

SECTION 1

1. In what ways are industrial and developing nations interdependent?
2. How can protectionist trade policies harm the economies of nations and the global economy?
3. What are the possible consequences of acid rain?

SECTION 2

4. What can individuals do to help preserve the environment?
5. How do their rights as citizens give Americans the power to change the world?

Critical Thinking

SECTION 1

1. **Evaluating Information** What do you think are the best approaches to solving environmental problems and preventing further destruction of the earth's environment?

SECTION 2

2. **Analyzing Information** Why is it important for individual citizens to become involved in world issues?

Reinforcing Citizenship Skills

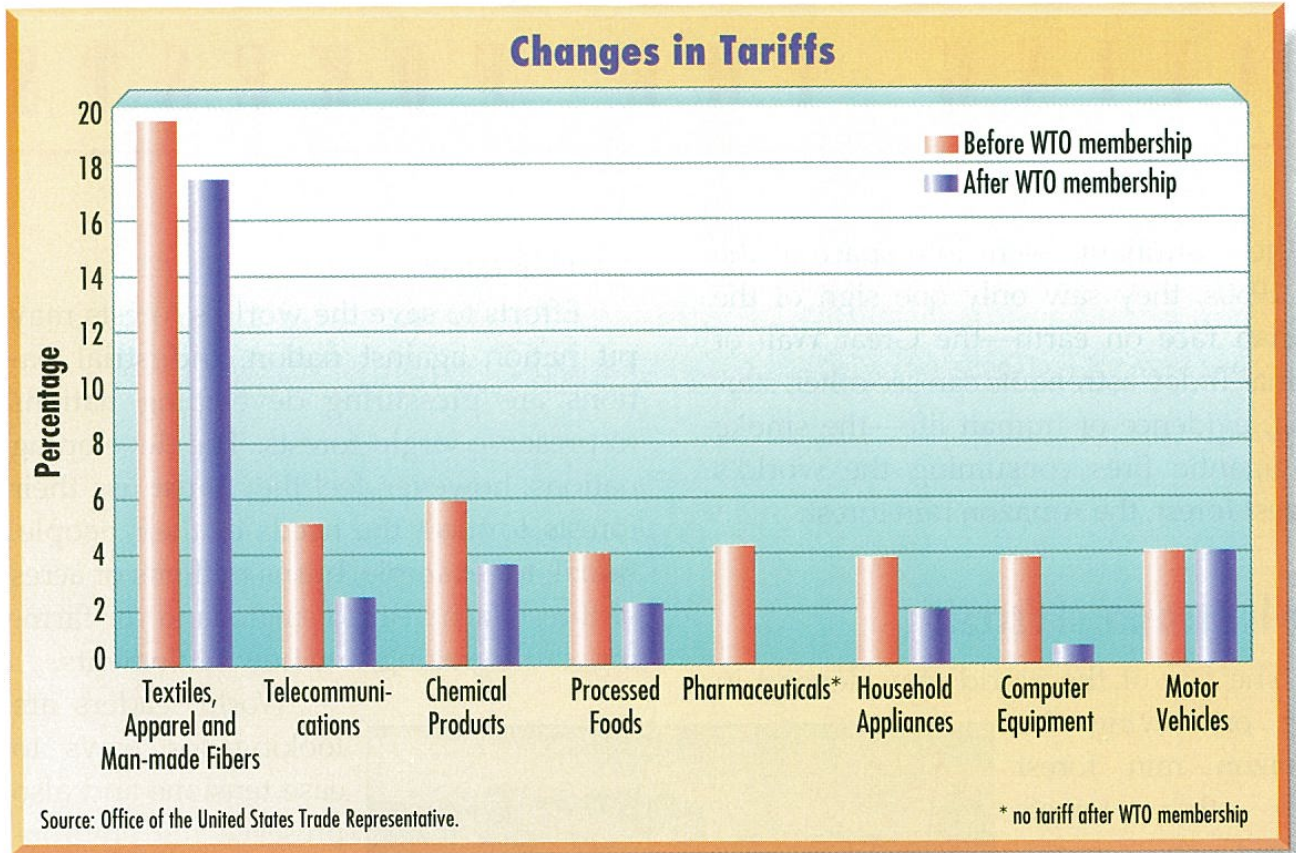
Study a recent issue of a local or national newspaper. Read through the lead article on the front page. Then write down the byline and the dateline and a summary of what the article is about. Answer the questions Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How. Share your summary with the class.

Cooperative Learning

With three other students, choose an environmental problem such as water pollution or forest destruction. Collect as many facts and figures as you can about this problem. Identify important sources of information and groups that are working to solve this particular problem. Present your findings to the class.

Focusing on Your Community

What opportunities exist in your community for individual involvement on issues? For example, does your community have a recycling program? Are

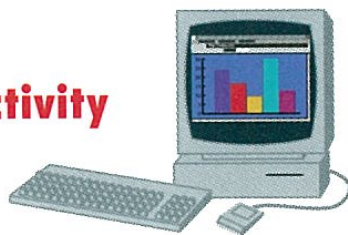


there any community groups working to reduce or prevent environmental pollution? Are there any groups working to reduce world hunger? Find out what you might do to assist in these efforts. Report your findings to the class.

Technology Activity

Using E-Mail

Search the Internet to find the e-mail address of a local television station or newspaper. You may wish to use the following key words to focus your search: **newspapers, television call letters**. Then select a world event or issue that you recorded in your civics journal. Expand on your ideas by



sending electronic mail to a local newspaper or television station. Describe the event or issue, discuss how it can affect people's lives, and explain what you think individuals can do.

Analyzing Visuals

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade created the World Trade Organization (WTO). Study the graph above, which shows changes in tariffs for WTO members. Then answer the questions.

1. What is the average proposed tariff reduction on various products?
2. Which products would experience the greatest tariff reductions?
3. For which products would the tariff reductions be the smallest?

CLOSEUP

SAVING THE FORESTS

When astronauts went into space in the 1960s, they saw only one sign of the human race on earth—the Great Wall of China. Today astronauts can see other, startling, evidence of human life—the smoke of gigantic fires consuming the world’s largest forest, the Amazon rain forest.

The Importance of Forests

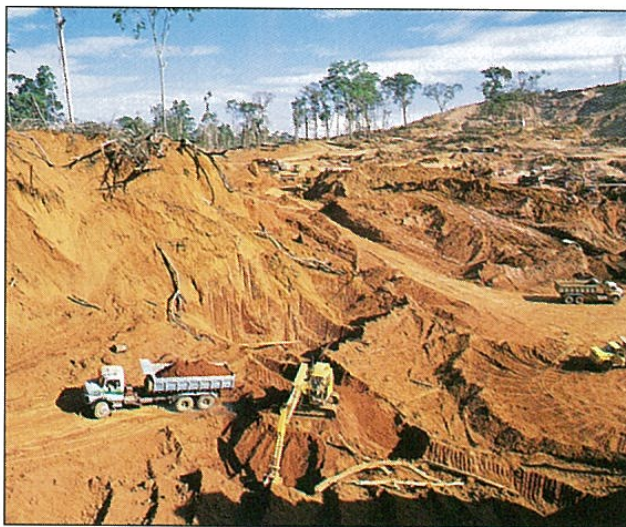
The fate of the world may depend in part on saving the Amazon rain forest and other forests around the world. The use of such fuels as oil and coal is greatly increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This carbon dioxide is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect, a gradual warming of the earth’s temperatures. Forests help reduce the greenhouse effect by absorbing carbon dioxide from the air.

There are other reasons to save the world’s forests as well. When forests and their habitats are destroyed, many species of plants and animals become extinct. Destroying forests can also cause or worsen natural disasters such as floods and droughts.

A World Issue

Efforts to save the world’s forests may pit nation against nation. Industrial nations are pressuring developing nations to preserve virgin forests. The developing nations, however, feel they must use their forests to meet the needs of their people. Brazil, for example, burns millions of acres of forest each year to create land for farming, cattle grazing, and new settlements.

World leaders are looking for ways to ease tensions and also preserve the environment. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have instituted programs to reward developing nations that conserve forests and penalize those that do not. World leaders now recognize that these problems cross international borders and affect all of the world’s people.



Rain forest destruction

CLOSEUP REVIEW

- 1 Why is the Amazon rain forest so valuable to the world?
- 2 What are some ways that governments can save forests?