

Name: _____ Date: _____ Section: _____

Ecological Footprint Activity

Everybody tends to think that they are an average person. But have you ever stopped to think about what would happen if that were really true? What would happen if everyone on earth lived the same way that you do?



Your “**ecological footprint**” is the amount of the earth’s total surface area that is required to generate the resources that you personally use. Whether it is food, water, or electricity, every resource requires some amount of space to generate it. Unfortunately there is a limited amount of space on earth. Do you think that you are using your fair share?

STEPS:

1. Go to <http://www.footprintcalculator.org/signup>
2. Enter your school email address and continue as a guest. From here, take the quiz to determine what your ecological footprint is.
3. Please use the “**add details**” section at the bottom of each quiz box whenever possible.

A. Results:

Your personal Earth Overshoot Day is: _____

(Your personal “**Overshoot Day**” is the calculated calendar date on which your resource consumption for the year exceeds Earth’s capacity to regenerate those resources that year.)

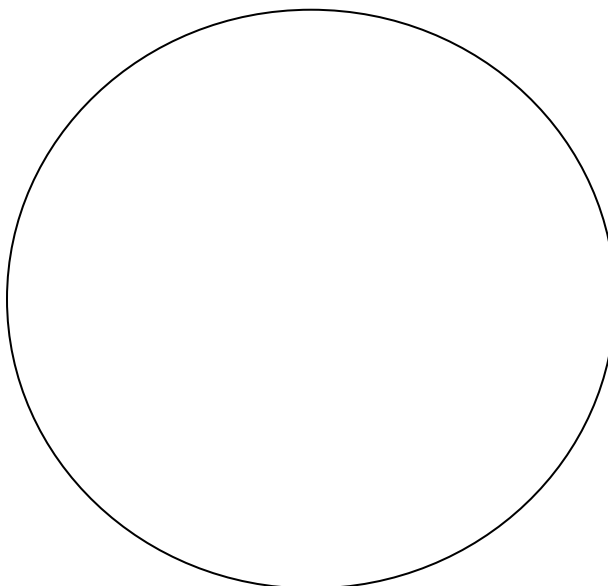
If everyone lived like you, we would need: _____

B. Click on **See Details**

C. Draw the pie chart and label how your footprint breaks down (you will need to hover over the pie chart):

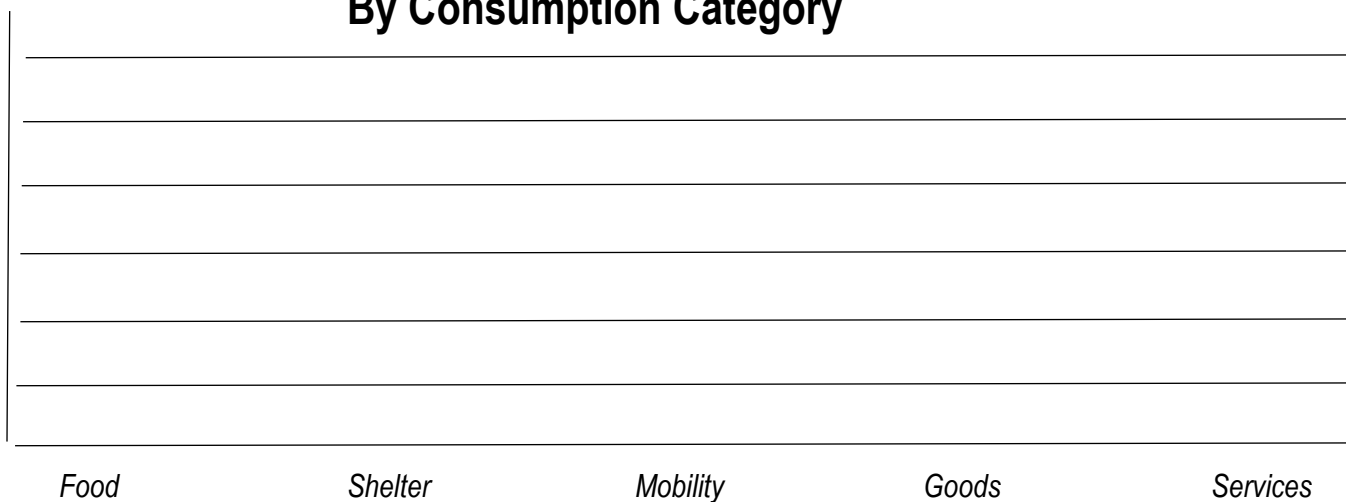
By Land Type

- Built-Up Land
- Forest Products
- Cropland
- Grazing Land
- Fishing Grounds
- Carbon Footprint



D. Draw the bar graph and label how your footprint breaks down (you will need to hover over the bar graph):

By Consumption Category



_____ Your Ecological Footprint
(global hectares or gha)

_____ Your Carbon Footprint
(CO₂ emissions in tonnes per year)

_____ Your Carbon Footprint
(% of your total Ecological Footprint)

E. Click on [Explore Solutions](#)

F. Once you have taken the quiz, take it again. This time, *instead* of answering truthfully, answer each question with the answer that reflects the most *you would be willing* to change your life to live more sustainably.

1. Is there a significant difference in your ecological footprint? _____
2. Name two changes that you might be willing to make in your life in order to decrease your ecological footprint.
3. Name two changes that you could make to your life to decrease your ecological footprint but which you would be unwilling to go through with. Why would you not want to make these changes? Please answer truthfully.