





Topic: The Environment

Keyword – Environment – the natural world; conditions around you

Icebreaker / Mixer

Interview 3 people about their environment. Ask them to explain their answers.

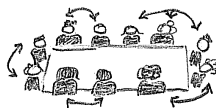
“Does your neighborhood or house have”

Name	clean water? 	clean air? 	good soil? 	noise pollution? 

Group Talk - Share something you learned in the interviews.

Group Check-in - If you wish, share something about what’s been happening in your life. Share results from the ‘Keep Talking’ activity and Presentations.

Discuss in pairs or in groups of three:



If something you own is empty, old or broken: do you recycle, reuse and repair items? Give examples. Why or why not?
Do you think most people are wasteful? Why or why not? Give examples.
Do you like to buy new things or used things? Give examples.

Story: Peter loved to hike in his native country. He liked to take a bus out to the countryside and hike in the hills by himself. He walked wherever he wanted. Often, herds of sheep would pass by him. Then, Peter came to Seattle, Washington. He went hiking with a friend on Tiger Mountain. Peter was excited. He started running and jumping through the bushes off the trail. His friend became upset. “Peter, you can’t go off the trail! Come back!” Peter was very surprised. “At home, I can walk wherever I want,” said Peter. His friend said, “I’m sorry but here, we have to stay environment.”

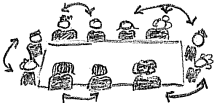


Group Talk - What do you think of this story?

Discussion Questions:

Do you think the world’s natural environment is in danger? If so, what part? If not, why not?

Do you think global warming is happening? Why or why not? If yes, does it need to be stopped? Can it be stopped?



In pairs or groups of three, discuss one or more of these questions. Change partners and discuss more.

In your native culture, is it ok to smoke at work or in public buildings? Is smoking popular? Do people worry about second-hand-smoke?

Has the natural environment in your native country changed in the last 20 years? in the last 50 years? How?

The U.S. is thinking of building new nuclear reactors to generate power. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea? Why?

What do you recommend as a good way to generate power?

Compare these issues for your native culture and for other cultures in the world.

How are they the same or different?

- Littering – throwing trash or cigarettes on the ground, or in the water
- Nature conservation – putting forests, lakes, and mountains in parks
- Finding new water sources
- Finding new energy sources
- Saving endangered species (of plants or animals)



Role Play: Make a role play for **one** scenario – then do it again for a different culture, to show the differences between them. Practice in pairs or groups and then present the role play to the group.

<p><i>Sample Scenario:</i> Your friend throws a pop can out the window of your car.</p>	<p><i>Sample Scenario:</i> Your city has little water. It is against the law to water your lawn.</p>	<p><i>Make your own scenario:</i></p>
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(For Beginning speakers: Practice a conversation script.)



Presentation - One or two students can prepare a 2-3 minute talk and present it in one or two weeks.

Keep Talking - Ask a coworker, a friend, or a store clerk: "Is it safe to drink tap water?" Write down the answers and share them at Talk Time.

Internet: Environmental issues - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_environmental_issues

Vocabulary: (Write down new words in this space)