

Quiz: Exploring Eco-Privilege

PLACE A CHECK NEXT TO EACH STATEMENT THAT APPLIES TO YOU:

- ☐ 1. My family lives in a small apartment or house because that’s what we can afford.
- ☐ 2. My family chooses to live in a small apartment or house because it is more energy efficient.
- ☐ 3. My family could easily buy energy efficient products (such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, low flow shower heads) to reduce the amount of energy we use.
- ☐ 4. My family could easily buy Energy Star appliances to reduce our energy use.
- ☐ 5. Paying the electric and/or gas bill is often hard and we sometimes get behind.
- ☐ 6. My family could generate our own electricity by installing solar panels or mini-wind turbines on our property.
- ☐ 7. It is fairly easy for me to find organic food and fresh produce.
- ☐ 8. There are a number of fast food restaurants in my neighborhood.
- ☐ 9. If I wanted to, I could easily grow my own food.
- ☐ 10. Some of my family, friends, or neighbors have *hybrid cars* or vehicles that run on alternative fuels such as *bio-diesel* or recycled vegetable oil.
- ☐ 11. I am dependent on public transportation.
- ☐ 12. I use public transportation because I think it puts less stress on the environment.
- ☐ 13. There are bike paths near my home.
- ☐ 14. It’s not safe for me to ride a bike in my neighborhood.
- ☐ 15. People in my family or group of friends frequently talk about how to deal with crises such as violent crime, not having a job, or not having health insurance.
- ☐ 16. There is a place in my neighborhood where I can find out how to make *sustainable* healthy communities and eco-systems.
- ☐ 17. I can easily leave the urban environment that I live in and access a natural setting (mountains, lakes, forests, beaches), or I live close to these areas already.
- ☐ 18. I live/work in an environment that is not toxic to my health.
- ☐ 19. My home is near a waste transfer station or an industry that produces pollution.
- ☐ 20. My town picks up yard waste, composts it, and makes it available to the community.

Notes on Exploring Eco-Privilege

Before the Activity

Before handing out the quiz, write the following terms on the board: “Eco” (ecological); “Privilege”; “Green.” Explore with participants what the terms mean. “Going green” is now an “in” thing. But do participants think that everyone has equal access to a green lifestyle? Why or why not? This quiz is a tool for getting a conversation going on just this question. There are no right or wrong answers.

During the Activity

Option #1: Have everyone in your group take this test on his/her own by checking off the box next to the statements that apply. Afterwards, discuss the results and how it felt to take the test.

Option #2: Read the statements out loud and have participants move to one side of the room if they agree and to the other side if they disagree. Discuss the results.

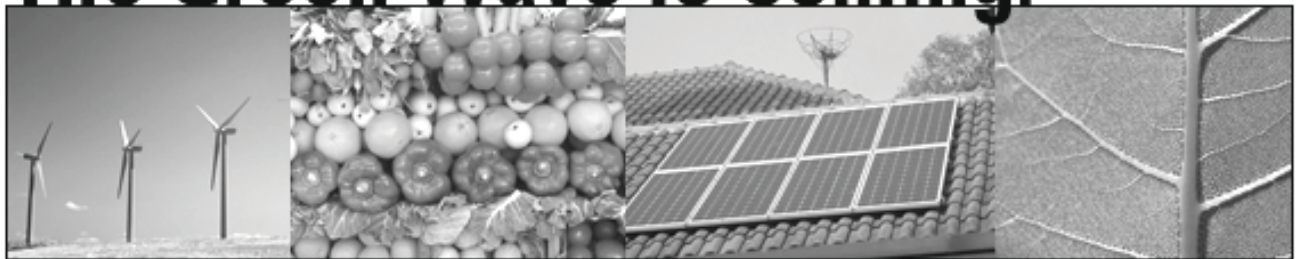
After the Activity

There are a number of directions you might take after participating in this activity. Here are a few.

1. What makes it possible for a person to choose a green lifestyle?
2. Are we living in a society where some people have the option to “go green” and others do not?
3. Use the graphic below as a discussion prompt. Consider the metaphors “green wave” and “lift all boats.” See if students are interested in making their own collages to define these metaphors or to explore their vision for a more sustainable society.

Source: This activity was adapted from “Exploring Eco-Privilege,” <www.ellabakercenter.org>. The collage below is used with permission from <www.ellabakercenter.org>.

The Green Wave Is Coming.



Will It Lift All Boats?

