

Pictou County Forest School - Grade 12 Pre-Visit Lesson Plans
Advanced Global Geography 12

Activity: Resilient Homestead

General Curriculum Outcomes:

Citizenship, Power, and Governance: A. demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and the origins, functions, and sources of power, authority, and governance Individuals.

Societies, and Economic Decisions: B. demonstrate the ability to make responsible economic decisions as individuals and as members of society.

People, Place, and Environment: C. demonstrate an understanding of the interactions among people, places, and the environment.

Interdependence: E. demonstrate an understanding of the interdependent relationship among individuals, societies, and the environment—locally, nationally, and globally—and the implications for a sustainable future.

Materials:

Interview and site tour of a permaculture homestead

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pcRdXRJ9hE>

Urban Homestead

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9ZukMyejLk>

Permaculture Zones explained with

<https://www.rustica.fr/permaculture/zonage-permaculture,16487.html>

Context:

In North America today we have surpluses of food never before seen in human history. The sheer abundance and variety of food from all over the world is a staggering example of the logistical and ingenious aptitudes we as humans possess. And yet the costs of this have been dire. Supply chains have never been longer and more untenable; food prices keep going up; meat is mostly produced in squalid factory farms; we are losing topsoil at an alarming rate; and the petro-chemicals required to support the current factory farm model that creates this abundance are in our soils and our water supplies, not to mention the food we eat.

Are there tangible solutions to these problems? There's never one simple answer to such complex, interrelated issues, but a good start is the idea of food sovereignty on the local community level: local households, neighborhoods, and communities taking back control of their food. A resilient community is filled with self-reliant households. It has been said that no democratic civilization can last long if it is built upon a citizenry that consumes more than they produce.

“Odd as I am sure it will appear to some, I can think of no better form of personal involvement in the cure of the environment than that of gardening. A person who is growing a garden, if he is growing it organically, is improving a piece of the world. He is producing something to eat, which makes him somewhat independent of the grocery business, but he is also enlarging, for himself, the meaning of food and the pleasure of eating.” (The Art of the Commonplace 2002)

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“There is, then, a politics of food that, like any politics, involves our freedom. We still (sometimes) remember that we cannot be free if our minds and voices are controlled by someone else. But we have neglected to understand that we cannot be free if our food and its sources are controlled by someone else.... One reason to eat responsibly is to live free.” (The Pleasures of Eating, 1989)

Wendell Berry

Activity:

Create an infographic (a graphic display using pictures, numbers, words) that illustrates how a resilient homestead looks to you. Thinking about the basic necessities for survival (e.g., food, water, shelter, fire) as well as the other necessary components that add to your survival (e.g., family, friends, recreation, arts, spirituality, beautiful natural surroundings, animals), design a compelling homeplace that nourishes your mind, body and soul; a place that makes you a producer rather than a consumer; a place that allows you and your family a place to stay and flourish in an ever-changing world.