

Environmental Justice

Part of the *Green Careers* series

Study Guide

Appropriate for grades 9-12 and post-secondary,
as well as 7-8 with teacher guidance.



This program examines how staffers at nonprofit agencies work with lawyers, lobbyists and other concerned citizens to advocate for environmental protection and strategies for sustainable growth.

Jobs profiled in this program include:

Environmental Attorney, Research Associate, Press Secretary, Community Organizer, and EPA Attorney.

21 minutes



**The Phoenix
Learning Group, Inc.**

Environmental Justice

Study Guide

Learning Objectives

Following are some sample cross-curricular learning objectives for comprehension questions and activities. Students will be able to:

Social Studies

- Evaluate policies and programs related to the use of natural resources.
- Discuss the manner in which policies can be altered through community action.
- Describe how public knowledge and action can improve the use of natural resources.

Careers/guidance

- Evaluate personal interests to determine if green careers are an area in which to pursue further education.
- Compare and contrast the skills and education required for a variety of careers in environmental justice.
- Identify post-secondary programs that offer green careers and locate courses of study within the programs.
- Determine the appropriate high school courses to enroll in to prepare for a chosen green career.
- State the importance of volunteerism in the preparation for post-secondary education and employment.

Technology

- Conduct research utilizing a computer and the internet.

Language Arts Literacy

- Write and conduct interviews to acquire knowledge regarding green careers.
- Create an advertising campaign to inform others about the importance of advocating for the environment.

Questions

Environmental Attorney

1. List the specific set of skills and personality traits that are needed to be an environmental attorney.
2. What is it meant by “watch-dogging” the government and why is it a “sad statement?”
3. Consider and discuss ways in which the work of an environmental attorney can affect change, other than the wolves mentioned in the DVD.
4. Explain how political pressure and money motivate environmental decisions instead of science.

Research Associate

1. Describe why a research associate would need to have skills in public relations and public speaking, as well as research.
2. Elaborate on the statement, “You have to be persistent in these battles over the environment because you are often outgunned by businesses with a stake in these decisions.”
3. According to the interviewee, what makes the research associate role rewarding?

Press Secretary

1. What specific education and training provides a suitable background for the position of press secretary?
2. Describe the primary responsibilities of a press secretary.
3. Identify the two sides that are often involved in an environmental dispute, and how the press secretary position assists in affecting change.
4. A strong drive and a passion for justice and fairness are stressed as required traits in order to be successful in this career. Why would this be a difficult position without those qualities?

Community Organizer

1. Why do the poor have to fight hardest against environmental destruction?
2. What is a coalition and why is a “bottoms up” approach important?
3. It was stated that in the instances where a win does not occur, “waves are made” anyway. How is this still beneficial?
4. How do the daily activities of a community outreach representative vary?
5. List the various responsibilities and skills needed to be a community organizer.

EPA Attorney

1. What are the responsibilities of an EPA attorney?
2. In what ways does an EPA attorney have an effect on the environment?

Sample Activities

- Go online and research how many, and what types of, legal actions are currently on the books in your community.
- Research instances in which the government, or a big business, and an environmental group entered into litigation and chart the process and the time it took to resolve the issue from the initial submission of the lawsuit to the final outcome.
- Volunteering was discussed frequently within this DVD. Locate environmental organizations within your community that depend on volunteerism and generate a list to determine the types of assistance that is needed.
- Invite environmental groups to come speak to the educational community about the work they are doing and the outlook for future employment in the field.

Related Links

<http://www.bls.gov/audience/students.htm>

Part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics website designed for teachers and students. It includes resources such as the latest statistics on employment, career outlook, and wages.

<http://www.ejfoundation.org/>

A charity based in the United Kingdom that campaigns for environmental justice worldwide.

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/ejustice/lib/>

A collection of links maintained by the Federal Highway Administration of websites, reports, publications and media tools about environmental justice, community impact assessment, public involvement and transportation.



The complete *Green Careers* series includes:

Building Green	Clean Energy: Solar Power
Recycling	Environmental Justice
Water Management	Green Design
Sustainable Agriculture	Restoring the Land: Hazardous Waste Management

The Phoenix Learning Group | 2349 Chaffee Dr. | St. Louis, MO 63146-3306

800-221-1274 | www.PhoenixLearningGroup.com