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Special Holiday Issue

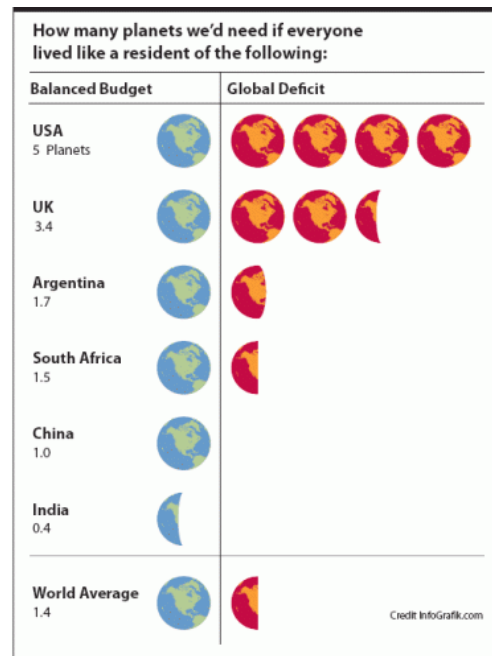
Global Footprint Network News

I am planning for the upcoming holiday festivities whilst looking forward to the spirit of good cheer that seems to linger in the air all around us. As I write out gift lists, it strikes me that December is an important month this year. Why?

The **Copenhagen Climate Conference** opens Dec 6 and will run until Dec 18th.

Conferences are great ideas when people resolve to create change. Will this climate conference be the one where our politicians start taking climate change seriously? With the [Global Footprint Network's](#) announcement that our global Ecological Footprint continues to grow while biocapacity continues to shrink, I hope so. It is disheartening to think about the excesses of the holiday season while our impact grows and our resources shrink

"It would now take nearly one and a half Earths to generate all the resources humanity consumes and absorb all our CO2 emissions, according to the latest Ecological Footprint and biocapacity calculations. These figures are based upon source data from 2006, the most recent year for which such data are available."



Source: Global Footprint Network, Nov 2009,
http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/ecological_debtors_and_creditors/



Canada's Ecological Footprint remains at a stunning **7.25** hectares. That's a lot of planet. What can you do?

Get involved. Have a voice. Educate your students. Sign up to ["Count Yourself In"](#) and agree to at least 10 actions to reduce your Ecological Footprint. Honour those actions.

Send a holiday greeting and a reminder to stay green to:

Politicians (MPs, MLAs, City Councilors) who can initiate or support sustainability programs and projects, particularly at the infrastructure level.

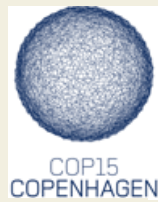
Administrators and planners, who can help politicians write appropriate legislation and ensure that existing policies are followed.

Friends, family, peers, students —, in short, all of us - possibly the most important group! Take small actions because they add up. Take big actions and inspire someone. Share your knowledge. Write and talk to politicians at all levels of government to let them know we care.

What's ON

On December 6 – 18 2009, governmental representatives from 170 countries are will meet in Copenhagen. In total

8000 people are expected to meet and discuss the state of the climate. If nothing else, block off the dates to have your students check out the discussions and speeches [online](#) at to learn more about what our governments have to say about the realities of global climate change. Did you know that Quebec has signed on to the European goal of reducing carbon emissions by 20 percent by 2020? Our federal government remains silent, but I think that's just one more reason to call Quebec [La Belle province](#).



UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE
DEC 7-DEC 18
2009

The UN Worldwide Campaign on Climate Change



Seal the Deal

Sign up before Dec. 5th and add your voice to the growing numbers of people who want their actions to be seen and heard – especially by our politicians. Let them know how many hours you, or your class, has [spent volunteering](#) for the earth between June 5 – 5 Dec 2009 to Count Yourself In.

You can also [download](#) free Posters, banners, caps, t-shirts, and postcards.



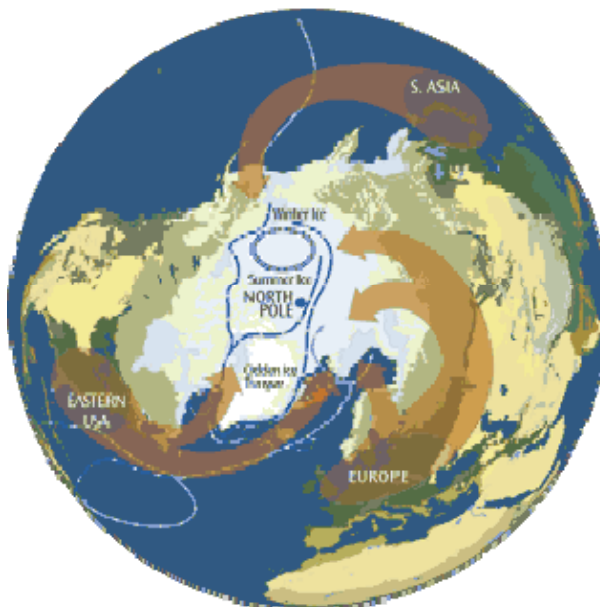
CHECK IT OUT



The Global Education Project

There is a lot of information here, including sections on Global Ecology, Human Conditions, Energy Supply, Food and Soil, Fresh Water, Development and Debt, Wealth, Fishing and Aquaculture, Toxic Pollution, Weapons and Biotechnology.

The website is the project of a group of educators from British Columbia who wanted to try to capture an objective look at the state of the world. Here's a sample of what you can expect to find:6.



Industrial air pollution from the developed world is carried on the dominant wind currents up to the arctic. After settling onto the tundra, snow and ice it is absorbed into the food chain. The people and creatures there have some of the highest concentrations of toxins in their bodies of anywhere on earth.

There are lots of graphs to keep you and your students updated – but some of these items are only available for purchase. All the information is sourced with links and authors, and the website claims that it uses only non-biased sources.

Happy Holidays!!!

Whatever you celebrate—Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, National Regifting Day, Islamic New Year—or any other that I have neglected to mention, I hope you have health, happiness and a green holiday.

Fast Facts

Environment Canada's White Christmas Web site gives statistical information on which cities have the whitest Christmases where you are most likely to find a perfect Christmas in Canada.

A white Christmas is defined as at least 2 centimetres of snow on the ground on December 25, while a "perfect" Christmas would see another one centimetre of accumulated snowfall.

In 1966, 32.8 centimetres of snow fell on Christmas day in Montreal.

At home at the North Pole, Santa Claus has only a 9 per cent chance of enjoying a perfect Christmas.

Try Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario for perfect Christmas weather.



EcoVoyageurs is a series of free teaching resources based on the Ecological Footprint concept. All focus on our ability to live within the limits of the Earth's resources. Materials include the [intermediate print kit](#) (classroom posters and teachers' guide with lesson plans and student worksheets) and its companion [Web site](#); [Count Yourself In](#) (a Web-based tracking tool that provides actionable steps for individuals and communities to reduce their impact of the environment) and EcoVoyageurs [Junior](#) (downloadable lesson plans, power points and graphics, supported with student activities and worksheets).

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