

U1L1A3 | The Inquiry Process: Exploring Sources of Information

Now that you have learned about questioning, you need to acquire and explore some materials to help you find answers.

Activity 1: Evaluating a source of information

1. As a class, brainstorm some possible sources of information that could answer the question ‘What is sustainability?’ Record them in the space below:

2. Select one and record it here _____

3. Complete the steps below to determine if it is useful.

Evaluating a source of information

- a. Who is the author?

- b. Is this a person or an organization? If it is a person, is she/he connected to an organization?

- c. What are the qualifications of the author? You may need to use Google for this. If you are satisfied that the author is a good source of information, you may continue to read. As you read, you need to keep the following questions in mind, and then answer them after you read.

- d. Is a particular bias or point of view evident?

- e. What kind of information is presented?
(definitions, examples, overviews, statistics, details of a case)

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2. Record any diagrams or relevant figures (sketch them if necessary)

Good materials are not limited to text-based articles. Videos, infographics, graphics all contain information and are valuable in an inquiry.

Activity 3: Non-text sources

There are three additional sources you could consider in addition to the ones you have already determined as a class:

A. The Natural Step

Watch the video from the Natural Step at the link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFCNCQIeCuk

a. What are the four care instructions for the Earth, according to the Natural Step?

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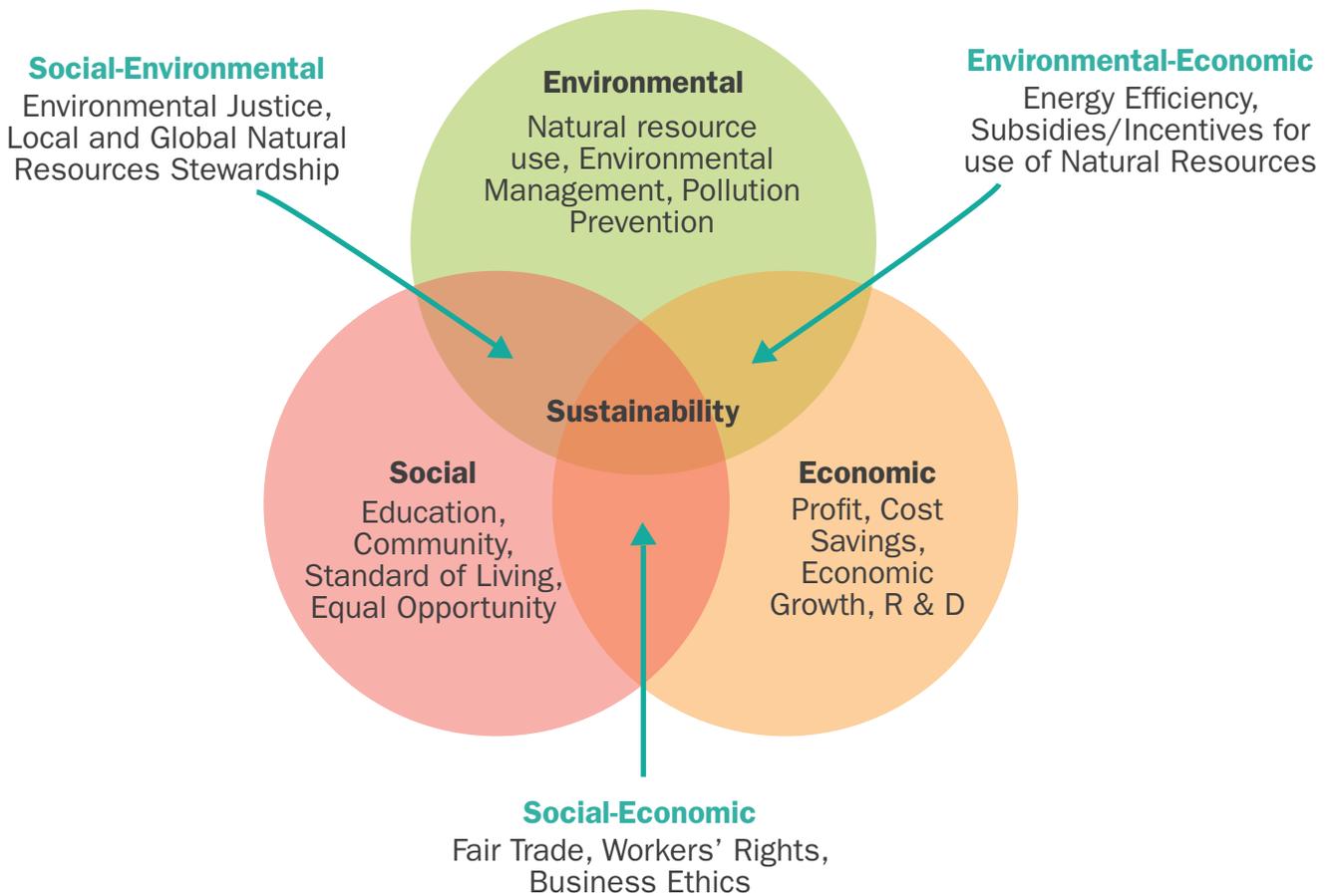
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B. 3-Sphere Sustainability Model

Below is the current, commonly referenced model for sustainability:

The Three-sphere Model
The Three Spheres of Sustainability



a. What are the primary factors of sustainability according to this model?

b. Explain the purpose of the areas between two spheres. Use an example from the diagram to support your explanation.

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C. The United Nations Model on sustainability:

The United Nations Model
Circles of Sustainability

ECONOMICS

- Production & Resourcing
- Exchange & Transfer
- Accounting & Regulation
- Consumption & Use
- Labour & Welfare
- Technology & Infrastructure
- Wealth & Distribution

- Organization & Governance
- Law & Justice
- Communication & Movement
- Representation & Negotiation
- Security & Accord
- Dialogue & Reconciliation
- Ethics & Accountability

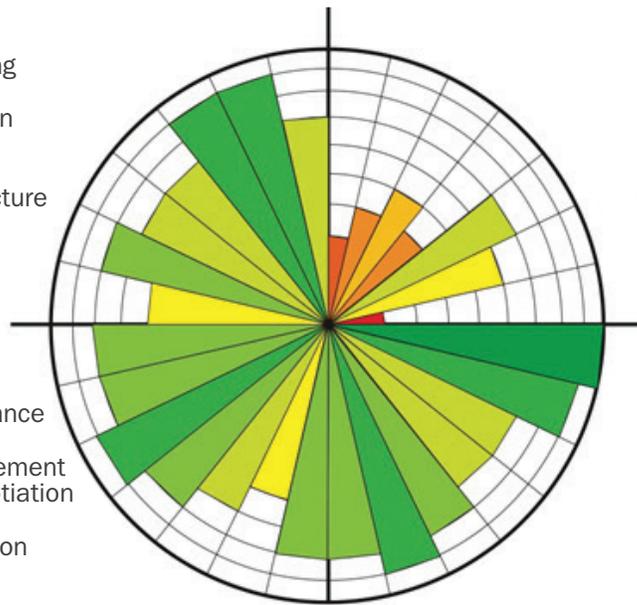
POLITICS

ECOLOGY

- Materials & Energy
- Water & Air
- Flora & Fauna
- Habitat & Food
- Place & Space
- Constructions & Settlements
- Emission & Waste

- Engagement & Identity
- Recreation & Creativity
- Memory & Projection
- Belief & Meaning
- Gender & Generations
- Enquiry & Learning
- Health & Wellbeing

CULTURE



a. How does the three-sphere model compare with that of the United Nations? List two similarities and two differences.

Homework:

Watch the Story of Stuff storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-stuff

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D. The Story of Solutions

Watch the movie at the link below:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpkRvc-sOKk

a. What is the difference between the old goal (MORE) and the new goal (BETTER)?

b. What symbols are shown on each of the goals to help the viewer understand these differences?

c. What does GOAL stand for?

d. What are some of the solutions the narrator describes that demonstrate the 'game' changing? Provide three.

e. Which of the above sources of information was most relevant and useful to your inquiry on sustainability? Explain why, providing examples.
