

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:**

This activity teaches students the basic human needs for food, water, air and shelter. This activity encourages students to consider how humans depend on natural resources and to explain how human behaviour alters the natural resources and their abundance.

**MATERIALS**

Foam discs – an even number of shelter, air, water and food (ideally a minimum of 8 each)

Set of statements

**Make sure you have all items before the students arrive!**

**BEGIN THE ACTIVITY**

Can anyone name some of the things we need to survive? **Wait for answers.**

Those are all good answers. Let's discuss some of the basic survival needs.

**Air** – What happens if we don't have air? We can't breathe.

**Water** – What happens if we don't have any clean water? We have nothing to drink.

**Shelter** – What happens if we have no shelter? We have nothing to protect us from the weather like snow, rain, thunderstorms, heat and the sun to name a few.

**Food** – What happens if we have nothing to eat? We starve.

Every living thing needs air, water, shelter and food to survive.

The survival circles that are on the ground represent air, water, shelter and food. They have a picture on them. Please place your hands and feet on four different circles.

We are now going to read some statements. At the end of each statement someone will remove one of the circles. If you have a hand or foot on that circle you have lost one of your survival needs. When you have no more circles you have been eliminated.

Please remember every living thing needs air, shelter, water and food to survive.

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**WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?**

*Water is essential for human survival!*

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Updated April 27, 2009

**STATEMENTS****Common activities that harm the environment**

1. Forests are cut down to build a new shopping mall. Thousands of animals lose their homes and a source of food. REMOVE ONE SHELTER CARD AND ONE FOOD CARD.
2. An oil tanker runs aground. Millions of litres of water are contaminated with oil. REMOVE TWO WATER CARDS.
3. A new highway is built so more cars can travel on it. REMOVE ONE SHELTER CARD.
4. Too many cars on the road. This creates air pollution and smog. REMOVE ONE AIR CARD.
5. All of the pollution from people causes Global Warming. Global warming creates a drought and the farmers can't grow crops. REMOVE ONE FOOD CARD AND ONE AIR CARD.
6. Too many people take long showers and waste water. REMOVE ONE WATER CARD.
7. It was a hot summer and everyone used their air conditioner. The power plants burn coal to make electricity and pollute the air. REMOVE TWO AIR CARDS.
8. The polluted water kills all the fish. The birds that eat the fish can't find anything to eat. REMOVE TWO FOOD CARDS.
9. People drain and pave over the wetland to build a new apartment building. The animals, birds and fish don't have a place to live. REMOVE ONE SHELTER CARD.
10. People pour old paint and oil down the storm drain. It washes to a nearby creek polluting the water and damaging the habitats of many aquatic species. REMOVE ONE WATER CARD AND ONE SHLETER CARD.

