

The Debate of the Forests

Subject: Social Sciences

Grade Level: High School (9th-12th grade)

Time : 90 minutes

Objective: Students will analyze the causes and effects of deforestation, explore various perspectives on the issue, and engage in a structured debate to propose and defend potential solutions.

Introduction (15 minutes):

- Begin the lesson by asking students to share what they know about *deforestation*.
- Present a brief overview of deforestation using [NASA Data](#)
- Discuss some causes and effects of deforestation

Activity: Exploration of Perspectives/ Background (20 minutes):

- Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a specific stakeholder perspective related to deforestation. Students will focus on the perspective of their group. Think about how deforestation affects these groups and what their advocacy, action, and education look like. What are the goals of each stakeholder? For or against deforestation?
 1. government policymakers
 2. environmental NGOs
 3. local communities affected by deforestation.

Resources:

Policymakers: [USDA Forest Service Policy Office](#)

NGO: [EARTHDAY.ORG'S canopy project](#)

Find a local community: [Global Forest Watch](#) to find areas in the U.S. with significant deforestation

- Provide each group with relevant information and statistics representing their assigned perspective.
- Instruct the groups to discuss and summarize their stakeholder's perspective, focusing on their motivations, concerns, and proposed solutions.

Debate Preparation (25 minutes):

- Reorganize the class into two larger groups, with each group consisting of a mix of students representing different stakeholder perspectives.
- Explain the format of the debate, including time limits for speaking and rules for respectful discourse.
- Assign roles within each group
 1. Speakers
 2. Researchers
 3. Recorder/Timekeeper
- Provide time for each group to prepare their *arguments* and *counterarguments* based on their assigned perspectives.

Debate (25 minutes):

- Facilitate the debate, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to participate.
- Each group presents their arguments, supported by evidence and reasoning, while respectfully engaging with opposing viewpoints.
- Encourage students to actively listen to their peers and to ask clarifying questions if needed.
- Keep track of time and moderate the discussion to ensure a balanced exchange of ideas.

Conclusion (5 minutes):

- Lead a brief reflection discussion, asking students to share their thoughts on the debate experience and any new insights they gained.
- Emphasize the importance of considering multiple perspectives when addressing complex issues like deforestation.
- Summarize key takeaways from the debate

Stakeholder Group:

Notes:

	Content
Deforestation: Action, Advocacy, and Education	
Argument 1:	
Argument 2:	
Argument 3:	