**Pop-Out Essential Question:** *Why does Greta Thunberg call for equity in climate action?*

In your Culminating Project, you are focusing on a plant or animal affected by climate change. However, many of you already know that humans are also suffering the impacts of climate change, and it is only getting worse!

In response, people all around the world are talking about climate action. These are the efforts we can take to reduce our contributions to climate change and to adapt to the situation we are in. In this Pop-Out, you will explore who should be the major players in climate action and why.

**Engage**

You may have heard the name Greta Thunberg in the news or social media. She is a Swedish environmental activist that is not much older than you are! In the last few years, she has made countless speeches calling attention to the international crisis of climate change.

1. As a class, watch the following video of one of Greta Thunberg’s speeches: <https://www.ted.com/talks/greta_thunberg_the_disarming_case_to_act_right_now_on_climate_change/up-next>
2. Discuss the following questions first with a partner and then as a class:
   1. How did listening to Greta make you feel? What were your first impressions?
   2. What does Greta say is so confusing to her about the climate crisis?
   3. What does Greta say about equity, or climate justice?
   4. What reason does she give for people not caring enough about the climate crisis right now?

**Explore**

In Greta Thunberg’s speech, she talked about a need for equity or climate justice in order for climate action to work on a global scale. Many climate activists say equity is the key to climate action. But why?

You have been introduced to this idea of equity throughout the other Pop-Outs this year. With your group, use what you’ve learned from previous Pop-Outs to first discuss what you think equity means. Record your ideas in the box below:

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Now let’s see why climate activists, like Greta, are asking for equity in climate action. As a group, use the online interactive Carbon Map to help you decide for yourself what might be fair in a climate action plan.

1. Type carbonmap.org into your web browser. Press the play button to watch and listen to the introduction that describes how this interactive map works. Write a few sentences to describe what this interactive map will show you:

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1. You have seen an “Area” Map before. Let’s start to explore the different maps by first looking at the “Population” Map and the “Wealth” Map (*Note: make sure the “Shade By” tab is set to “Continents”*)
   1. Click on the “Population” Map. How is it different from the “Area” Map? Write down 1-2 things you notice.
   2. Next click on the “Wealth” Map. How is it different from the “Population” Map? Write down 1-2 things you notice.
      1. Compared to their population size, which continents have more wealth than you would expect? How could you explain this?
2. The rest of the Maps will help you determine which continents are most responsible for climate change and which are most vulnerable to the impacts. Click on the tabs at the top to explore the other maps and fill in the table below with your analysis. For each map, make sure to click back on the “Population” tab to make comparisons.

* Helpful Tip: on the right side, there is a box labeled “This Map” that will give you more helpful information about that map.

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| **Responsibility** | | | |
| **Map**  **Type** | **Which continents are larger than their “Population” map size?** | **Which continents are smaller than their “Population” map size?** | **Questions to Consider** |
| **Emissions** |  |  | Compared to their population size, which continents contribute more to carbon **emissions** than you would expect? |
| **Consumption** |  |  | Compared to their population size, which continents contribute more to carbon emissions from **consumption** than you would expect? |
| **Historical** |  |  | Which two continents have contributed the most carbon emissions in the **past**? |
| **Vulnerability** | | | |
| **People At Risk** |  |  | Which continent has the most **people at risk** of feeling the effects of climate change in the future? |
| **Sea Level** |  |  | Which continent is most in danger of **sea level rise** (a result of climate change)? |
| **Poverty** |  |  | Which continents are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because of **poverty**? |

**Explain**

Now that you have seen the data for yourself, take a stance: do you think we need equity in climate action? In other words, should everyone have equal responsibility in dealing with climate change or should some countries have more responsibility?

As a group, prepare for a class discussion in which you will:

* Vote on whether you think equity should be considered in climate action
* Use map data to justify why you think equity should or shouldn’t be an essential piece of climate action
* Explain what you think it would mean to have equity in climate action

**Elaborate**

If some countries are going to be responsible for more of the climate change burden than others, this is going to require a lot of cooperation around the globe! This kind of cooperation was attempted by the Paris Climate Agreement, which was signed by 195 countries in 2015 (including the United States). At the time, it was seen as the most promising effort to tackle climate change thus far.

1. As a class, w**atch the following video that gives you a news update on where the United States stands with the Paris Climate Agreement:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRCRiMNg_kM>. **Use the following questions to discuss the video:**
   * **What was the goal of the Paris Climate Agreement?**
   * **What did President Trump decide to do about the Paris Climate Agreement?**
     + **How could this affect global climate action?**
   * **Do you agree with this decision?**
     + **If you don’t agree, what would you do differently and why?**
2. The Paris Climate Agreement calls for equity, but doesn’t lay out a specific system to ensure it. As a group, brainstorm: What would you include in a climate agreement like this one to make sure it is fair and equitable?

**Evaluate and Reflect**

Individually, take a few minutes to think about what you learned in this Pop-Out. Then reflect on the questions below:

1. Why do you think that there should be equity in climate action?
2. What do you think are the best ways to achieve equity in climate action?
3. Think back to Greta Thunberg’s speech in the first video. What do you think you could do as a young environmental activist like Greta?