



# Critical Thinking Skills



## Reducing Your Community's Carbon Footprint

Skills for Critical Thinking		Reading						Hands-on Activities	
		Climate is Changing, and So Must We	The Transportation Footprint of a Community	Greener Vegetables	Very Green Houses	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Plant	Some Green Towns and Cities		Is the Future Green or Grim?
LEVEL 1 Remembering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List Details/Facts</li> <li>Recall Information</li> <li>Match Vocabulary to Definition</li> <li>Define Vocabulary</li> <li>Sequence</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 2 Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate Understanding</li> <li>Describe</li> <li>Classify</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 3 Applying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application to Own Life</li> <li>Organize and Classify Facts</li> <li>Infer Outcomes</li> <li>Utilize Alternative Research Tools</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 4 Analysing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguish Meanings</li> <li>Make Inferences</li> <li>Draw Conclusions</li> <li>Identify Cause and Effect</li> <li>Identify Supporting Evidence</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 5 Evaluating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and Defend an Opinion</li> <li>Make Recommendations</li> <li>Influence Community</li> </ul>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 6 Creating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile Research Information</li> <li>Design and Application</li> <li>Create and Construct</li> <li>Imagine Alternatives</li> </ul>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



# Some Green Towns and Cities



1. **Circle** the groups of words that describe a possible feature of some of the carbon neutral towns that have been built or planned.

- |                          |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a small cluster of homes | two cars in every garage | surrounded by a greenbelt     |
| wide freeways            | green roofs              | food shipped from large farms |
| solar hot water          | photovoltaic cells       | energy from organic waste     |
| electricity from coal    | crops grown nearby       | wind turbines                 |

2. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is most correct.

a) Which of these types of countries is *most* threatened by global climate change?

- A low-lying island countries
- B mountainous countries
- C countries with deserts
- D countries with grassy plains

b) What makes a community carbon neutral?

- A Everyone eats only organic food.
- B Everyone has the same carbon footprint.
- C The community absorbs as much CO<sub>2</sub> as it produces.
- D No one in the community uses anything made of carbon.

c) Why do most new carbon neutral towns have a low transportation footprint?

- A Everyone has their own car.
- B The towns have wide streets.
- C The towns cover a small area.
- D A greenbelt surrounds the towns.

d) Why do some newly designed carbon neutral communities resemble villages of 200 years ago?

- A Neither uses cars for transportation.
- B Residents of both want to live simply.
- C Residents of both are mostly farmers.
- D Both are isolated from the rest of the world.





# Is the Future Green or Grim?

## Joe in a green future:

**J**oe wakes up and shuffles to the bathroom. He takes a long hot shower with water from the solar heat collectors on the roof. In the kitchen, he puts water in a bowl and adds a scoop of oatmeal bought in bulk at the local farmers market. He puts the bowl in the microwave powered by photovoltaic cells. While the cereal cooks, he goes to the back yard and picks some fresh fruit to add to his cereal. He chops up the fruit and puts the fruit peels and pits on the compost pile. After breakfast, he takes the electric bus to school.



Green or not-so-green?

## Joe in a grim future:

Joe wakes up and shuffles to the bathroom. He takes a quick semi-hot shower because his parents have been complaining about the utility bills. In the kitchen, he has a breakfast of eggs from a distant chicken farm, fruit from South America, and Chinese bacon. After breakfast, Joe gets into the family station wagon to be driven to school by his father. As they back out of the driveway, they pass their snow blower, snow mobile, and skis, sitting on their front lawn with a FOR SALE sign. Across the street, a refugee from the Maldives holds up another sign:

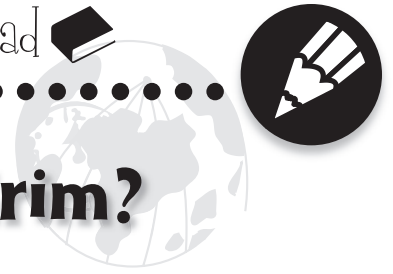


**Why was Joe's family selling their snow blower, snow mobile, and skis?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

After You Read 



# Is the Future Green or Grim?

### 3. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

- a) Explain the sign the Maldives refugee was holding: "My country is under water. Please help." Explain it in terms of climate change.

---

---

- b) Describe the main difference between the food Joe ate in the green future and the food Joe ate in the grim future.

---

---

### Extensions & Applications

1. Describe one way you can take action to reduce the home energy footprint of your community.

---

---

2. Describe one way you can take action to reduce the food footprint of your community.

---

---

3. Describe one way you can take action to increase the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed in and around your community.

---

---

SAMPLE