

Climate Justice Presentation

Name: William Layman

Username: wl89761

School: Alexandria City High School
(Formerly TC Williams)

Resource 1: Majora Carter: “Greening the Ghetto” TED Talk



-Majora Carter is a black woman who grew up in poverty in the South Bronx, NY. She saw firsthand the effects of environmental issues on her community and was inspired to make a change. She not only gives a voice to the black community, but also to other poverty-stricken areas around the world who are in need of environmental justice.

Resource 1: Majora Carter: “Greening the Ghetto” TED Talk



-The area in which she lived(South Bronx) is a relatively small part of New York City, but handles nearly 40% of its waste. It's also home to countless sewage treatment sites and power plants, making it environmentally unsafe. The community there was also economically neglected and still hurting from the racist policies of the segregation era.

Resource 1: Majora Carter: “Greening the Ghetto” TED Talk



-Because of these things, residents in the South Bronx experienced horrible effects. Heavy air pollution led to asthma in children. The underdeveloped area led to people developing unhealthy diets, obesity, and diabetes. Cancer cases even rose as a result of the toxic pollution from many of the sewage plants.

Resource 1: Majora Carter: “Greening the Ghetto” TED Talk



Hunts Point Riverside Park.

-One day, Majora's dog led her to an abandoned spot on the river, the only place where residents had access to the water. Seeing this, Majora was inspired to turn it into a public park, eventually turning an initial offer of \$10,000 from the city into a 3 million dollar grant after the extreme support the initiative received. It was called "Hunts Point Riverside Park."

Resource 1: Majora Carter: “Greening the Ghetto” TED Talk

-Now, Majora is developing more initiatives, not only in the South Bronx, but for low-income and environmentally neglected communities all over America. She specializes in identifying a specific community's needs and then meeting them appropriately through sustainable and people-focused solutions.



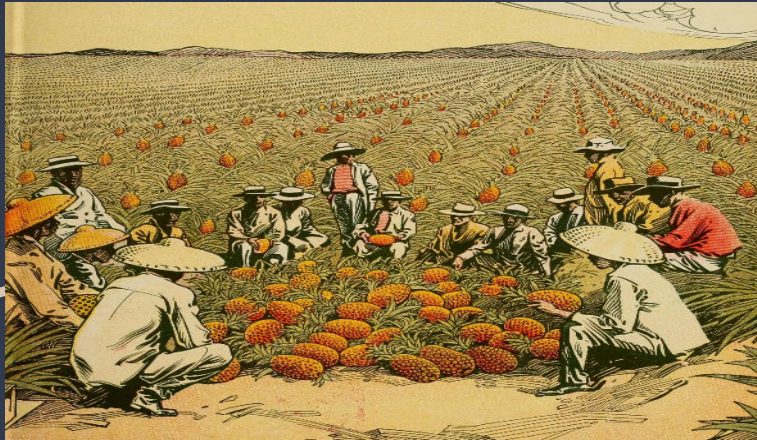
Resource 2: Angelique Kokal: “Connecting Past to Present: Confronting Environmental Racism and Social Injustice in Hawaii” Article



-Angelique Kokal is a student from Hawaii studying Economics and Environmental Science and Public Policy at Harvard University. She works coordinating environmental projects in places like Brazil but also works on economic uplift programs in her hometown of Hawi, Hawaii. She wrote this article detailing the past of Hawaii and its environmental relations.

Resource 2:

Angelique Kokal: “Connecting Past to Present: Confronting Environmental Racism and Social Injustice in Hawaii” Article



-This article focuses on the history of environmental racism in Hawaii as a result of colonization and how native efforts to restore the environment have been affected. When the Europeans colonized the island of Hawaii, they exploited it for its rich resources with no regard for the people or the environment. This effect continued to snowball over time and the new generation are continuing to face these issues.

Resource 2:

Angelique Kokal: “Connecting Past to Present: Confronting Environmental Racism and Social Injustice in Hawaii”

Article



-Indigenous communities in Hawaii have, and continue to, experience displacement as a result of rapid urbanization in Hawaii. Many of them are forced to move closer to the several active volcanoes in the archipelago, not only putting their housing at potential risk, but also exposing them to visual and air pollution.

Resource 2: Angelique Kokal: “Connecting Past to Present: Confronting Environmental Racism and Social Injustice in Hawaii” Article



-The Indigenous people of Hawaii have protested these issues for many years and have made progress, but there is still more to go. These issues disproportionately affect the people on the islands without benefiting them economically or socially. It's long past time these issues were addressed.

Resource 3: “The Link Between Racial Segregation and Environmental Injustice” Article on The Crime Report

- This article details that way that America's racist past affects its current inequalities. Things like redzoning in which white city planners divided neighborhoods into racially-driven sections in order to avoid developing black communities and focusing on white ones. These actions have clear repercussions on communities today and need to be addressed.

Resource 3: “The Link Between Racial Segregation and Environmental Injustice” Article on The Crime Report



- The article gives the example of Richmond, a city close to my heart as a native Virginian. In districts with higher black populations, there is an increased presence of pollution-producing buildings. These are linked to respiratory and neurological issues that also disproportionately affect black people in this area. Housing is also worse in these areas which exposes the community to more of these harsh conditions.

Resource 3: “The Link Between Racial Segregation and Environmental Injustice” Article on The Crime Report

-This article really drove the point home that these issues affect communities literally everywhere. I usually consider Virginia to be decent at environmental justice but this article proved otherwise. This showed me that action needs to be taken first at a local level to inspire national or international change.



Have you been taught about this in school? If not, how can you change that? How can you educate others?

-Unfortunately, we are rarely taught about environmental justice in schools. In history class, we focus on big, visible events but can sometimes ignore longstanding, withering issues that affect the certain communities. By bringing awareness to these issues and emphasizing their importance, we can slowly bring them into curriculums across the country.

What can you learn from looking at this through the lens of the 4 Rs?

-Reflection: We need to look back on the source of the problem(racist urbanization) and figure out how to fix it

-Restoration: We need to fix the problems that white businessmen and government employees created decades ago and restore trust. We need to environmentally revive these communities who have suffered under terrible conditions for decades.

What can you learn from looking at this through the lens of the 4 Rs?

-Reparations: We need to address these issues from a social and environmental standpoint and not from an economic one. If we aim to do everything for a profit, it will defeat the purpose and cripple our efforts.

-Right-Relationship: In doing this process, we need to listen to the needs of the communities themselves and not overstep our bounds in changing their community.

How would you define climate justice?

-I think that Majora Carter said it the best in her TED Talk: “No community should be saddled with more environmental burdens and less environmental benefits than any other.” This idea of equality is so important to me as someone who loves the environment. It has different impacts on everyone, but no one should have to deal with only the negative effects which may not even be their fault.

Sources

[-https://www.ted.com/speakers/majora_carter](https://www.ted.com/speakers/majora_carter)

[-https://climate-xchange.org/2020/07/14/connecting-past-to-present-confronting-environmental-racism-and-social-injustice-in-hawaii/](https://climate-xchange.org/2020/07/14/connecting-past-to-present-confronting-environmental-racism-and-social-injustice-in-hawaii/)

[-https://thecrimereport.org/2021/10/05/the-link-between-racial-segregation-and-environmental-injustice/](https://thecrimereport.org/2021/10/05/the-link-between-racial-segregation-and-environmental-injustice/)

Post



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pgc_entries_will Unfortunately I was not able to include the whole slideshow due to formatting but here are some text portions as highlights. You should definitely check out Majora Carter's TED Talk titled "Greening The Ghetto"; it's incredibly informative and illuminating. #pcg2021

7 seconds ago

Name: William Layman

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1) **Images: (scroll)**



IT'S KILLING OUR OCEANS

Project Green Challenge 2021

What is Overfishing?

-Overfishing is officially defined as catching fish faster than they can reproduce and replenish their population



-An increasing human population and innovative technology have skyrocketed the amount of fish being pulled from our oceans



Effects of Overfishing on the Environment

-The most direct effect of overfishing is a sharp drop in biodiversity in nearly every marine environment



-This is creating a ripple effect, causing food chains to collapse and wiping out creatures that aren't even targeted by fisherman



Effects of Overfishing on Humans pt. 1

-While the main purpose of this overfishing is to feed millions of hungry people, it's going to have the opposite effect when we exhaust our resources



-Not only will we run out of the animals we fish, but we will also lose many others due to food chain collapse



Effects of Overfishing on Humans pt. 2

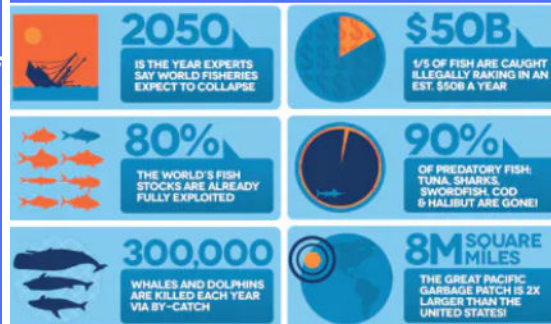
-Because of this extreme reliance on a depleting food source, hundreds of millions of people are going to starve



-And the others who survive are going to turn to other food sources, eventually draining them as well



Here's a graphic by Reef Conservation International emphasizing the scale of this issue:



(<https://reefci.com/2017/12/17/ocean-issues-overfishing/>)

How Can We Stop Overfishing?

1. Consider the fish that you eat or reduce your overall consumption. Certain fish are more vulnerable than others to overfishing and need to be avoided. Check out NRDC.org to see what to buy
2. Shop sustainably. Only support businesses or organizations that source their foods in a sustainable manner.
3. Support fishing regulations. There's only so much one person can do. Legislation is the main way that we can stop the destruction of marine environments

Sources/Photo Credits:

-<https://www.organicauthority.com/buzz-news/effects-of-overfishing-could-be-reversed-if-fishing-is-halted-for-5-years>

-<https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/overfishing>

-<https://www.seafoodwatch.org/seafood-basics/sustainable-solutions/avoid-overfishing>

-<https://reefci.com/2017/12/17/ocean-issues-overfishing/>

-<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/smart-seafood-buying-guide>

Post:



Redlining in Richmond, Va

Name: William Layman

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School: Alexandria City High School

Introduction

-This presentation will primarily focus on the D1 neighborhood in Richmond, Virginia

-Back in the day, it was designated as a neighborhood to be redlined primarily because of its high African American population

-This means that white investors typically thought of it as a risky area to invest in, reducing the amount of money spent on improvements in the neighborhood

-It's mainly a residential neighborhood with town-house style residences as well as free-standing houses



Problems and Local Solutions



- A huge problem for a long time was that previously redlined neighborhoods faced extreme heat due to their lack of tree cover and increased heat-absorbing asphalt
- This caused elevated levels of heat-related ailments as well as chronic illnesses that disproportionately affected the minority communities in these areas
- This neighborhood has significantly improved environmentally since the time of redlining
- Community planners in the Greening Southside Richmond Project realized this problem and earned a grant through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to increase green space in Richmond

Progress

-In addition to these movements, there has also been a general increase in the amount of parks in the D1 neighborhood

-And while these movements have undoubtedly made a change, there is still an alarming disparity between neighborhoods like D1 that were redlined and those that were not.

-According to a study conducted in 2020, redlined neighborhoods are 5 times hotter on average than neighborhoods that were not

-This gap needs to be bridged in order to bring environmental justice to this area and right the wrongs of previous eras



My Plan

Pt. 1



-As mentioned before, great progress has been made, but I believe ever more is required to ensure environmental equality in this area.

-While public parks are great ways to increase green space in the community, the fact that they're located in one spot limits the amount of overall tree coverage in an area

-I think that lining the sidewalks with trees or motivating homeowners to introduce them into their lawns will greatly decrease the effects of the heat felt in previously relined zones

-Additionally, reducing the amount of exposed asphalt with this tree cover will reduce the overall temperatures

My Plan

Pt. 2



Sweetbay Magnolia



Eastern Redbud



Willow Oak

-In particular, there are several types of trees that are both native to the area and that will have diverse benefits to the community

-First, the Eastern Redbud Tree. It's known for its beautiful pinkish-red blossoms and is also incredibly resilient, making it perfect for city environments. Its wide-reaching branches make it a great candidate for tree cover as well.


-Next, the Sweetbay Magnolia. This tree is a towering, dense one that grows especially well in extreme sunlight. Additionally, it grows fruit, attracting animals and increasing the biodiversity in an area.

-Finally, a fantastic choice for maximizing shade is the Willow Oak. It's a massive, very resilient tree that will provide lots of tree cover to a community. And it also grows acorns to attract critters and increase biodiversity.

Sources/Photo Credits:


- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/24/climate/racism-redlining-cities-global-warming.html>
- <https://www.cbf.org/blogs/save-the-bay/2020/09/formerly-redlined-areas-of-richmond-are-going-green.html>
- <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=13/37.548/-77.463&city=richmond-va&category=5-e>
- <https://www.mdpi.com/2225-1154/8/1/12/htm>
- <https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/virginia/richmond-va/best-native-trees-richmond/>
- <http://urbanscalerichmondvirginia.blogspot.com/2012/06/monument-avenue-richmond-mid-20th-c.html>
- <https://treenewal.com/how-to-care-for-a-willow-oak-tree/>
- <https://vnps.org/redbud-is-ready-for-spring/>
- <https://www.plantingtree.com/products/sweetbay-magnolia>

Post

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My Plan




Pt. 1



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pgc_entries_will Here's screenshots from my presentation about redlining and it's environmental impacts in Richmond, VA. I also have slides at the end detailing my proposed solution

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Redlining in Richmond, Va





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1) **Images:**



3) Post:



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1) Response:

- My business would be a group of people who go to people's houses and help consult, install, or maintain gardens. This way, we would encourage people to live more sustainably by growing their own food. Even if it's a small, indoor garden, it would still reduce the amount of food waste that people produce. There are some businesses in my area that may offer this as a service, but I can't find any that have it as their express purpose. The companies that do offer it are often locally owned, usually meaning that they are better for the environment. However, I would make sustainability an absolute priority and that on top of my business's specialization would mean that I'd likely be a great alternative. Some actions that I could do to increase my sustainability are: encourage and offer compost options, use materials that I gathered/bought from a sustainable source, hire locals to support the local economy, and grow plants that regulate air pollution.

2) Link to Video:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAEtYjhYFjU/vw2dgaeNFPv0zs9c0IXw7A/watch?utm_content=DAEtYjhYFjU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton

3) Post:



pgc_entries_will



MY BUSINESS IDEA

Will Layman - PGC 2021



pgc_entries_will Here's a video of my idea for a sustainable business! #pgc2021

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