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Grades 9-12

Module 1: What's up with Earth's water resources?

This module addresses issues that are of fundamental importance to life. Four case studies—a coastal bay, an inland sea, a river, and mountain snow pack—investigate water resources important to millions of people in North America, Asia, and Africa. Each investigation focuses on the physical nature of the resource, how humans depend upon the resource, and how human use affects the resource creating both problems and opportunities.

Investigation 1: Chesapeake Bay: Resource use or abuse?

Investigation 2: What is happening to the Aral Sea?

Investigation 3: The Nile: A sustainable resource?

Investigation 4: Why is snow important in the southwestern United States?



Module 2: Where will your next meal come from?: Inquiries about food, people, and environment

This module includes three investigations dealing with agricultural systems and the environmental problems and opportunities related to these systems, including their capacity for sustaining human populations.

Investigation 1: Is there a future for subsistence agriculture?

Investigation 2: What is industrial agriculture?

Investigation 3: Who will feed the world?

Module 3: What are the causes and consequences of climate change?

This module investigates climatic variability. It focuses on the evidence for global climate change. It includes investigation of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the geography and politics of stratospheric ozone, and the theory of global warming.

Investigation 1: What are the causes and effects of ENSO?

Investigation 2: The loss of stratospheric ozone: Where are people at risk?

Investigation 3: Are we warming Earth?