



Forks Ville, Town Hall meeting

EQ: How do I impact my ecoregion?

Targeted Skills

Technology

- Select and Effectively Manipulate Technology Tools

Thinking and Reasoning

- Problem Solving
 - identify possible solutions

Information Literacy

- Collect Information
 - take notes
- Access Information
 - locate print, audiovisual, computerized resources
 - recognize bibliographical information

Inter/Intrapersonal

- Goal Setting
 - follow given timeline
 - perform self-appraisal

Communication

- Writing/Speaking/Producing
 - Classify information in appropriate graphic organizers

Enduring Understandings

Balance within ecosystems is regulated by the interactions between biotic and abiotic factors

Concepts Important to Know and Understand

Biodiversity, human impact, environmental response

Broad Brush Knowledge

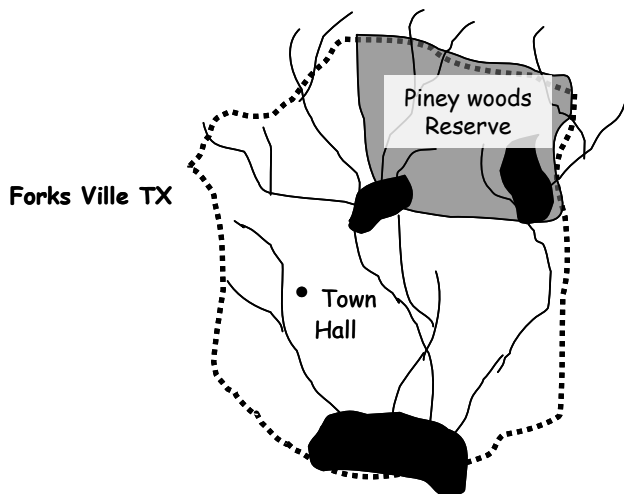
Texas biome, microhabitats, preservation efforts, environmental destruction,

Targets

- 2.1 Model the effects of human activity on ground water and surface water in a watershed.
- 2.2 Observe/ record and describe the role of ecological succession in a microhabitat.

Purpose- Simulate/predict how land development effects an Ecoregion.

Background- The town of Forks Ville is a community in Texas whose current population is 250,000. Town leaders are predicting the population will grow to 600,000 in the next 10 years. New housing is already in place; however, a couple of land developers have noticed the potential of the community's nature reserve. As a rule, the people have kept a 140 acre reserve of pure piney wooded forest; nature and community have thrived together so far. It is home to many varieties of species of trees and wildlife including pines, cypresses, oaks, sparrows, grey river otters, flying squirrels and the Louisiana Black Bear. More importantly it is also a haven for the Bald Eagle, an endangered species, who winter near streams and rivers of the area.



- Group(s) goals-
 - Events Center Board- The goal of the E.C.B is to insure that a "green" events center and park are built to meet the needs of the community and to stimulate economic growth in the community. Harmony with nature, neighbors and revenue makes a successful community.
 - Mall Development Site Committee- M.D.S.C is committed to putting merchants in a lucrative place to sell their goods and stimulate the communities' economy. We will only use 130 of the 140 acres to develop high end shopping.
 - Concerned Citizens Panel- The goal of the C.C.P is to prevent anything that will disturb the balance of Forks Ville. If land is to be developed then alternatives must be set in place to not disturb the community's peace and the ecoregion's wildlife.
 - Preservation Society- We at the Preservation Society believe that nothing in nature should be disturbed ever. Our goal is to prevent the 140 acres of unspoiled nature to remain the way it is and preserve the biotic/abiotic factors of the area.

Group Goal Sheet: All members of a group must complete the Group Goal Sheet. Keep in mind that your group should only develop points that support your goal.

Group Name: _____

Goal:

Brainstorming:

- Summarize the background information on the land/community.

- How will your group's goal benefit the community?

- Summarize your goal.

Supporting your case: Your group will come up with five points/statements that support your goal and will win over the townsfolk.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

- When you present begin by introducing your group's name and goal.
- You will only present your three best points.
- Your concluding statement will be a summary of your goal.

Townsfolk Goal Sheet: Each townsfolk must complete their goal sheet, notes on watershed, succession and human impact will help prepare you for the presentations.

Preparation:

- How do you feel about the development of the land? Explain.

- What information do you need to be persuaded to develop the land?

- What information do you need to be persuaded to NOT develop the land?

Summaries and Questions: Write a one sentence summary of the goal for each group, one question you have about their goal, and how their goal will affect the land/community.

- Events Center Board-

- Mall Development Site Committee-

- Concerned Citizen Panel-

- Preservation Society-

Predictions:

- What would you like to see done with the land?

- Day 2- Presentations
 - Groups will complete a 3-4 minute presentation of their goal.
 - After each groups' presentation the town and other groups will be allowed to voice questions about goals or supporting points for 1-2 minutes.
 - Everyone must fill out their reflection sheet as groups are presenting and being questioned. A 1-2 minute pause will be given after the completion of each group and questioning to finish filling in this sheet. (You must fill in the blank for your own group as well)

- Day 3- Reflections, Voting and the Future
 - Everyone will complete their Reflection sheet.
 - The class will take a vote on which groups' goal will be supported by Forks Ville.
 - Finally, each person, individually, will complete the Community Prediction Sheet.

Reflections: As the groups are presenting fill-in the reflections sheet. Please be attentive to each group in order to get as much information from their presentations as possible. Remember the fate of the land and community is in your hands!

Day 2:

Write the main point that supports each group's goal:

1. Events Center Board-

2. Mall Development Site Committee-

3. Concerned Citizen Panel-

4. Preservation Society-

Additional notes (any other bit of information that will help you make the right vote):

Day3:

- Which group gave you the information to make your decision? Why was their argument better than other groups?

- List 3 things you have learned from this assignment:

- Predict which group will win the vote, how they will use the land?

- Are there any conditions (special requirements) that should be made for developing the land to protect the Ecoregion?

Community Predictions: Forks Ville 10 years later...

1. How was the community affected by the decision made about the land?
2. If the land was developed, how have the biotic factors in the 140 acres adjusted? If the land was not developed, has there been more community involvement with the land?
3. Imagine that the Mall Development Site Committee won the vote, and then they decided to develop all 140 acres of land. How has the watershed of Forks Ville changed? What would the succession of the Ecoregion look like?
4. If the M.D.S.C won the vote write out 3 conditions that the townsfolk should make to preserve as much of the Ecoregion and watershed as possible.
5. Write a 3-4 sentence conclusion of the activity. Describe how the meeting has changed your mind about land development in our Ecoregion of the Blackland Prairies.