

My Plant Project!

I grew watermelons, tomatoes, and rosemary:



Although I checked everyday, the watermelon and tomato seeds did not sprout for weeks so I decided to plant some tomatoes with some of the soil my mom used to plant in her garden over the summer! I added some fertilizer so I thought that might help speed up the process!



I was talking to my mom and she told about this idea to plant Rosemary (something that my mom grows in our front yard). She said that if I just cut off a stalk from one of her rosemary bushes and put it in a clear glass of water, it would grow roots and could be planted.

I researched a little about this and it's true, it's suppose to work. So I thought as a backup plan, why not?



Within a week I saw results!! It's not quite roots yet but there's fuzz on the end where roots will eventually grow.



After some time, there was also results with the tomatoes too! Check it out:



Green View



Ecological Footprints

Original Artwork by Gayle Boyd, Dreher High School

By Sophia Austermilller

Our duty to earth is to keep it clean and green! However, over the years humans have imprinted irreversible effects that could lead to the destruction of the planet and the human race.

To measure an individual's or group's effect on the environment, we measure their "ecological footprint," which is the amount of biologically productive land and water needed to supply the individual or group in a particular country or area. It measures humanity's demand on our planet's ecosystems or in simpler terms - how much 'nature' is needed to support a group or individual. Some countries have more land and resources their populations need, while other countries have the opposite effect and are using more resources than they have available. The second group of countries are the ones we need to worry about since resources are not infinite. They *will run out*, but before they do, they'll cause destructive effects on the earth, disrupting ecosystems and displacing millions of people. Eritrea is currently the country with the highest ecological footprint. Why is this? It's East African country, with less than 0.5 global hectares per citizen. Their land and water resources per person can support at

a rate 14 times that of the average american average. Other countries with high ecological footprints are China, the United States, and Australia. Countries with the smallest ecological footprint are Eritrea, Haiti, Burundi, and Pakistan..

How do we measure a country's ecological footprint?

Well, there are a lot of different factors that contribute to the calculation. Transportation is a major way to calculate an ecological footprint for a country or person. Questions like "How do you get around? Walking, driving, etc." are asked or "How often do you fly on an airplane?" Another big factor is food consumption. This is important because of all the resources growing food uses a lot of resources. Questions like, "How do you eat?" and "Do you eat meat?" and "Are you a vegetarian?" are also asked. This is not for pure curiosity: meat eaters have a significantly larger demand for resources. This is primarily because livestock takes more water and land resources since food must be grown for the animals too.

Another factor is shopping, especially non-local and online shopping. Questions like "How often do you buy new clothes and other items?" are asked.

Other questions include "Do you use renewable energy (solar, wind, etc.) for heating your housing?" and "What temperature do you keep your house" and "How long do you shower?" to measure use of water resources.



If you want to measure your footprint you can take the quiz at [Foot Print Calculator.com](http://www.footprintcalculator.com) or click on this link: <http://www.footprintcalculator.org/home/en>

This website is super cool because not only does it categorize your type on each selection, it also shows you how many earths there would have to be to uphold your lifestyle for the world's population. This is very interesting but eye-opening to see how each of us live.

When you learn your score, you will probably be alarmed. What is happening to this earth isn't something we should ignore – it is very devastating to know that to make up for some people's demand, whole populations have to live in poverty and destruction.

We need to make a change, and I hope that it happens soon!

