

# How population growth impacts the planet



[www.science.org.au/curious/video/how-population-growth-impacts-planet](http://www.science.org.au/curious/video/how-population-growth-impacts-planet)

Circles of Action: A routine for organising one's understanding of a topic through concept mapping  
*What can I do to take responsible action in response to this issue?*

1

In my inner circle

of friends, family, the people I know?



2

In my community

my school, my neighbourhood?



3

In the world

beyond my immediate environment?



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# Teacher explainer

## Connecting to real world science

### Video and thinking tool

**Audience:** Years 7-10

### Why this resource?

*How population growth impacts the planet* is a resource intended to support student discussions about issues facing our planet. It provides students opportunities to consider how science and scientific thinking impact our everyday lives.

It encourages students to:

- Be curious
- Collaborate
- Develop and use critical thinking skills
- Practise communication skills
- Develop science agency

Science agency is the capacity to critically use science and other forms of expertise to personal and social benefit [OECD \(2020\)](#).

**Links to Australian Curriculum: Science (Version 8.4)** Science as a Human Endeavour (ACSHE119/134, ACSHE158/192, ACSHE157/191 Nature and development of science, ACCSHE160/194, ACCSHE228/230 Use and influence of science)

### Australian Academy of Science videos

The video *How population growth impacts the planet* is produced by the Australian Academy of Science as part of a collection of [videos and topic summaries](#) relating to current science issues.

### Why use thinking routines?

To facilitate student discussion, this resource uses a specific thinking routine. A thinking routine is a set of questions or steps used to scaffold and support students to organise their ideas, reason carefully, and reflect on their thinking. The routines can be used in a range of contexts. If you are new to thinking routines or would like to explore further, check out Project Zero's [Thinking Routine Toolbox](#).





## Why this thinking routine?

Circles of Action\*

When students learn about the world and want to make a difference, they can feel overwhelmed. A mismatch between calls for global citizenship and students' perceived capacity to act can reduce motivation to engage. This thinking routine helps students recognise that actions can have different scope (small and large) and can occur in multiple spheres, at personal, local and global levels. It supports students to consider potential courses of action and their consequences.

## How might you use this resource?

*How population growth impacts the planet* can be used by students individually or in groups. Recording group responses can be collated and used to stimulate deeper discussion or re-visited later.

Having discussed the content, and engaged with the routine, you may invite students to consider how they think science and thinking with a scientific perspective helps society better understand the causes and impacts of population growth.

## Your context, your judgement

We suggest you watch the video in advance and consider your students' experience so that you can anticipate questions or concerns they may have.

**\*The Circles of Action thinking routine was developed by Project Zero, a research centre at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.**