

Global Issues

(adapted from: http://cms.gavirtualschool.org/Shared/SocialStudies/WorldHistory_15/WH_GlobalIssuesShared/index.html)

Key Terms

Margaret Thatcher - First female Prime Minister of England

Indira Gandhi - First female Prime Minister of India

Golda Meir - first female Prime Minister of Israel

Al Qaeda - terroristic organization led by Osama bin Laden

Hamas - terroristic political organization that wants to establish an independent Palestinian nation and wipe Israel off the map

United Nations - organization of most of the world's nations formed after WWII

World Trade Organization (WTO) - international organization that regulates trade between many of the world's countries

OPEC - organization of the world's oil producing nations; primarily made up of middle eastern nations

Global Warming - controversial and debatable theory that the earth is warming due to pollution by man

Greenhouse Effect - a process by which thermal radiation from a planetary surface is absorbed by atmospheric greenhouse gases, and is re-radiated in all directions. Since part of this re-radiation is back towards the surface, energy is transferred to the surface and the lower atmosphere. As a result, the temperature there is higher than it would be if direct heating by solar radiation were the only warming mechanism.

Ozone Layer - a layer in Earth's atmosphere which contains relatively high concentrations of ozone (O₃). This layer absorbs 97-99% of the Sun's high frequency ultraviolet light, which is potentially damaging to life on Earth. It is mainly located in the lower portion of the stratosphere from approximately 13 km to 40 km above Earth, though the thickness varies seasonally and geographically. The ozone layer was discovered in 1913 by the French physicists Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson.

Fossil Fuel – fuels formed by natural resources such as anaerobic decomposition of buried dead organisms. The age of the organisms and their resulting fossil fuels is typically millions of years, and sometimes exceeds 650 million years. The fossil fuels, which contain high percentages of carbon, include coal, petroleum, and natural gas. Fossil fuels range from volatile materials with low carbon: hydrogen ratios like methane, to liquid petroleum to nonvolatile materials composed of almost pure carbon, like anthracite coal. Methane can be found in hydrocarbon fields, alone, associated with oil, or in the form of methane clathrates. It is generally accepted that they formed from the fossilized remains of dead plants and animals by exposure to heat and pressure in the Earth's crust over millions of years.

Acid Rain – a rain or any other form of precipitation that is unusually acidic, i.e. elevated levels of hydrogen ions (low pH). It can have harmful effects on plants, aquatic animals, and infrastructure through the process of wet deposition. Acid rain is caused by emissions of compounds of ammonium, carbon, nitrogen, and sulphur, which react with the water molecules in the atmosphere to produce acids.

Internet - a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard Internet Protocol Suite (TCP/IP) to serve billions of users worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of millions of private, public, academic, business, and government networks, of local to global scope, that are linked by a broad array of electronic and optical networking technologies. The Internet carries a vast range of information resources and services, such as the inter-linked hypertext documents of the World (WWW) and the infrastructure to support electronic mail.

Global Economy - refers to the economy, which is based on economies of all of the world's countries, national economies. In addition, global economy can be seen as the economy of global society and national economies - as economies of local societies, making the global one. It can be evaluated in various kinds of ways. For instance, depending on the model used, the valuation that is arrived at can be represented in a certain currency, such as 2006 US dollars.