

LESSON 2 Rising consumption and the sustainability challenge		
Teaching activities	Learning outcomes	Resources
<p>Starter</p> <p><i>Population, consumption, sustainability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief refresher on key terms: natural resources, renewables • Investigating whether the number of people, or their lifestyles, should be our main sustainability focus <p>Main activities</p> <p>(1) <i>Are current resource consumption trends sustainable?</i></p> <p>Students investigate the evidence showing steep growth in import volumes for emerging economies and the link with rising global commodity prices 2000-present. Diagrammatical evidence is analysed showing global trade networks and growth trends in the size of these flows. Students briefly consider the growing pressure on supplies of food, energy, water, metals and commodities.</p> <p>(2) <i>Global food & water consumption</i></p> <p>Food and water are the two most essential sets of resources for human life and they provide the final focus for the main activity segment of this lesson. trends in food and water consumption are analysed and linked with a series of important related concepts including water scarcity and water security.</p> <p>Plenary</p> <p><i>Can emerging economies provide solutions for the big problems?</i></p> <p>Increasingly, emerging economies, notably China, are pioneering new solutions to resource depletion and shortages. The lesson ends on an optimistic note by briefly exporting this important issue.</p>	<p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn that over-use of natural resources can be more likely to be linked with changing lifestyles rather than changing population sizes • Identify a range of natural resource scarcity concerns that may result from the rise of the global middle class • investigate two of the most concerning global security issues: food and water • think critically about whether 'necessity is the mother of invention' 	<p><i>This lesson is fully supported with the following resources:</i></p> <p>(1) A PowerPoint presentation covering resource security issues and the lesson's key concepts</p> <p>(2) A downloadable Word document for students to study the growth in global trade flows (with homework activity)</p> <p>(3) Lecture given by Felix Preston (Senior Research Fellow, Energy, Environment and Resources at Chatham House): http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/challenges/mobile-middle-class/media-gallery/video/felix-preston/</p> <p><i>External links</i></p> <p>Chatham House's 'Resources Future' report; http://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/papers/view/187947</p>