

Minequest Task List: Treading Lightly

Big Question: How can individuals and industries tread lightly on our planet and still maintain the lifestyles we all require or enjoy?

Task #1: As a team, brainstorm a list of man's inventions or modern conveniences that have had major impacts on the way we live. Circle all the inventions on your list that, as a team, you agree you couldn't live without. Divide the circled items on your list among your team members.

Task #2: For the invention(s) or convenience(s) you have been assigned by your team, make a chart on your own showing

- the benefits provided to mankind
- other conveniences or inventions that are dependent on the invention/convenience
- the risks, hazards or negative effects which the invention/convenience has brought to individuals, communities or the environment

Task #3: As a team, meet back to discuss your charts.

Task #4: On your own, search for the mission of the Tread Lightly project at the listed websites.

Task #5: Meet as a team and draft a list of Treading Lightly rules that apply across a variety of activities.

Task #6: Divide the following searches among team members to add to your ideas about how to tread lightly while enjoying the outdoors.

Task #7: As a team, discuss any new recommendations for responsible recreation you've discovered. Revise your list as necessary.

Task #8: As a team, explore the tradeoffs. If you followed these recommendations to Tread Lightly in recreation, what would you have to sacrifice? Print or ask your teacher for a copy of the Treading Lightly Analysis Sheet. Enter a Tread Lightly practice/action or recommendation in each box. List the benefits and the sacrifices which result or are required for each entry. Use more than one sheet if necessary

Task #9: As a team, share your discoveries. Then, consider the tradeoffs. If you followed these recommendations to Tread Lightly as a consumer, what would you have to sacrifice? Make additional entries on your team's Tradeoff Analysis Sheet.

Task #10: Read about a project that uses new technologies to process coal. Consider this question. How does this project have the potential to help industry Tread Lightly?

Task #11: Divide your search among team members or visit each site individually according to the directions of your teacher. At each page you are looking for ways the Mining Industry is finding to Tread Lightly.

Task #12: As a team, once again consider the tradeoffs. By using new technologies and practicing reclamation efforts to Tread Lightly, what does the Mining Industry have to sacrifice? How is the consumer of mineral industry products affected? Make additional entries on your team's Tradeoff Analysis Sheet.

Task #13: As a team, brainstorm any other efforts to Tread Lightly that you are aware of. Make more entries for these items on the Tradeoff Analysis Sheets.

Task #14: On your own, make a list of ways that you could change what you do to leave fewer "destructive" paw prints on the sands of time.

Task #15: As a team, listen to each member share the change from his or her list that would be the hardest to live up to. Explain why the change would be difficult.

Task #16: First, print or ask your teacher for a copy of the Problem Solving Matrix. Then as a team complete the matrix. (See more matrix directions online.)

Task #17: On your own, revisit your team's completed matrix and select any two separate scores. Identify the scores you choose by the cell they are in such as Change 3, Criterion 5. In a written explanation, make a case to support why your team chose these two ratings. Or instead you may write a "dissenting" opinion, explaining why you were in the minority and did not agree with your team's rating in this case.

Task #18: As an individual, write an explanation of how the practice, change, or effort that scored the highest on your matrix was or was not an example of compromise. Does this winning idea or action require more than one interest group or individual to make sacrifices? Who loses and who gains? How does the idea change the lifestyles we are accustomed to?

Task #19: Review the efforts that you and others are making or could make to tread lightly. Would you take action to convince others of the need to support these practices, actions, or efforts? Can man leave paw prints on the sands of time in a way that still leaves a livable Earth for future generations? Register your thoughts at the Minequest Lobby.