

Mini Project: Landform Challenges - A Newspaper Investigation

Mission Brief:

You are a **journalist** for a major environmental newspaper. Your task is to investigate a landform area facing critical environmental challenges. Research the issues the region is facing, propose realistic solutions to these challenges, and write a newspaper article informing the public about the problem and how it can be solved. This article will be published for the public to read and understand how environmental issues can be addressed.

Project Guidelines:

Step 1: Choose Your Landform Area

Select a landform from the following categories and pick a specific region where it is facing an environmental challenge. You may research online or refer to resources provided in class.

- **Plateau:** (e.g., Tibetan Plateau, Colorado Plateau)
- **Valley:** (e.g., Nile Valley, San Fernando Valley)
- **Hill:** (e.g., Hollywood Hills, Appalachian Mountains)
- **Mountain:** (e.g., Andes Mountains, Alps)
- **Volcano:** (e.g., Mount Vesuvius, Mount Fuji)
- **Coastline:** (e.g., Florida Keys, Great Barrier Reef)

Step 2: Investigate the Challenges

Research the specific **environmental challenges** that the chosen landform area is currently facing. Some challenges to consider:

- Erosion
- Desertification
- Pollution
- Flooding
- Urban sprawl
- Habitat loss
- Deforestation
- Climate change effects (e.g., rising temperatures, melting glaciers)

Use reliable sources such as government websites, environmental organizations, news outlets, and scientific journals.

Step 3: Propose Solutions

After understanding the challenges, propose **practical solutions** to address the issues faced by your selected landform area. Think about the following types of solutions:

- Environmental restoration (e.g., reforestation, wetlands creation)
- Technology (e.g., flood barriers, green building designs)
- Policy changes (e.g., stricter pollution laws, land conservation)
- Community action (e.g., local education programs, sustainable farming practices)

Step 4: Write Your Newspaper Article

Write a newspaper article that covers the following:

- **Headline:** Create a headline that grabs attention about the landform's current environmental issue.
- **Introduction:** Introduce the landform and the environmental challenge it is facing.
- **Main Body:** Describe the effects of the environmental issue on the local area and community.
- **Proposed Solutions:** Present at least two solutions to the problem and explain how they can help resolve the challenges.
- **Conclusion:** Sum up the importance of solving the issue and encourage action from the readers.

Step 5: Visual Elements

Add at least one **visual element** to your article. This could be a photo, map, diagram, or illustration of the landform or the problem. Use it to help readers understand the issue and proposed solutions. You can draw the visuals yourself, or use publicly available images.

Newspaper Article Format:

Headline:

(Example: **Tibetan Plateau's Struggle: Can We Stop Desertification?**)

By [Your Name]

Environmental Reporter

Introduction:

Introduce the landform and the environmental challenge in a few sentences. Make it compelling and informative.

Example:

The Tibetan Plateau, often called the "Roof of the World," is facing one of our most severe environmental crises. Overgrazing, deforestation, and the impacts of climate change are causing desertification, leaving vast swaths of land barren and uninhabitable. This is threatening local communities, wildlife, and the entire ecosystem.

Main Body:

Describe the challenges the area is facing. What is happening to the landform? What impact is this having on the environment, people, and animals?

Example:

Overgrazing by livestock is the leading cause of soil degradation across the Tibetan Plateau. This has led to massive amounts of topsoil being washed away by rains, leaving the land unable to support crops. The changing climate makes the situation worse, as rising temperatures are accelerating the process of desertification. Local farmers are seeing their crops fail, and rare wildlife such as the Tibetan antelope are losing their natural habitats.

Proposed Solutions:

Offer two or more proposed solutions. Be specific and explain how they can help solve the problem.

Example:

One solution to the Tibetan Plateau's desertification is restoring grasslands. This can be achieved by planting drought-resistant grasses and promoting sustainable farming practices that prevent overgrazing. Another solution is implementing a government program to reduce

livestock numbers in the most affected areas, allowing the land to recover and regenerate. The right combination of environmental restoration and policy change can slowly revive the Plateau's ecosystem.

Conclusion:

Summarize why this issue matters and call readers to action. What can they do to help, or why is this solution important?

Example:

The desertification of the Tibetan Plateau is a global problem, one that requires immediate action. We can help reverse the damage and protect this vital landform for future generations by supporting reforestation efforts and advocating for policy change. The time to act is now, before the damage becomes irreversible.

Visual Element:

Include a map of the Tibetan Plateau showing areas affected by desertification, or a diagram showing the process of soil erosion.

Rubric Checklist: /40 Marks (10 marks each)

- ☐ **Research Quality:** Did you identify the landform and describe its environmental challenges?
- ☐ **Proposed Solutions:** Are your solutions realistic and well-explained?
- ☐ **Writing Quality:** Is your article clear, engaging, and well-organized?
- ☐ **Visual Element:** Does your visual aid enhance understanding of the issue and proposed solutions?
- ☐ **Creativity and Effort:** Does your article show creative thinking and effort in proposing solutions?