

FOUNDATIONAL MODULE

Global Climate Justice



What's in this module?

Description

This module introduces foundational components, dilemmas and debates surrounding global climate justice. Students have the opportunity to see many examples through interactive case studies and activities with resources from BBC, MIT, TED.com and more.

Contents

3 videos
6 readings
9 optional activities
1 optional project

Key Resources

- [Climate Futures: Reimagining Global Climate Justice](#) (Bhavnani et al., 2019)
- [The World's Fight for Climate Justice](#) (Timperly, 2021)
- [The End of Oil Explained](#) (Vox/Netflix)



Learning Objectives

01

Identify aspects of global climate injustice within environmental issues

02

Review the history, themes, and origin of global climate justice

03

Examine global climate justice action from articles and videos

04

Research local climate justice issues and **assess** them on a global scale

Warm up

Why are the impacts of climate change unequally shared?

What are some examples of global climate change impacts that disproportionately affect a group? How are these groups affected?

Turn to a partner or small group and discuss at least one of these questions.

A woman in Macomia, northern Mozambique assesses the damage after a mature baobab tree slammed into her home during Cyclone Kenneth in 2019. Image © Getty Images. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



Introduction

PART 1

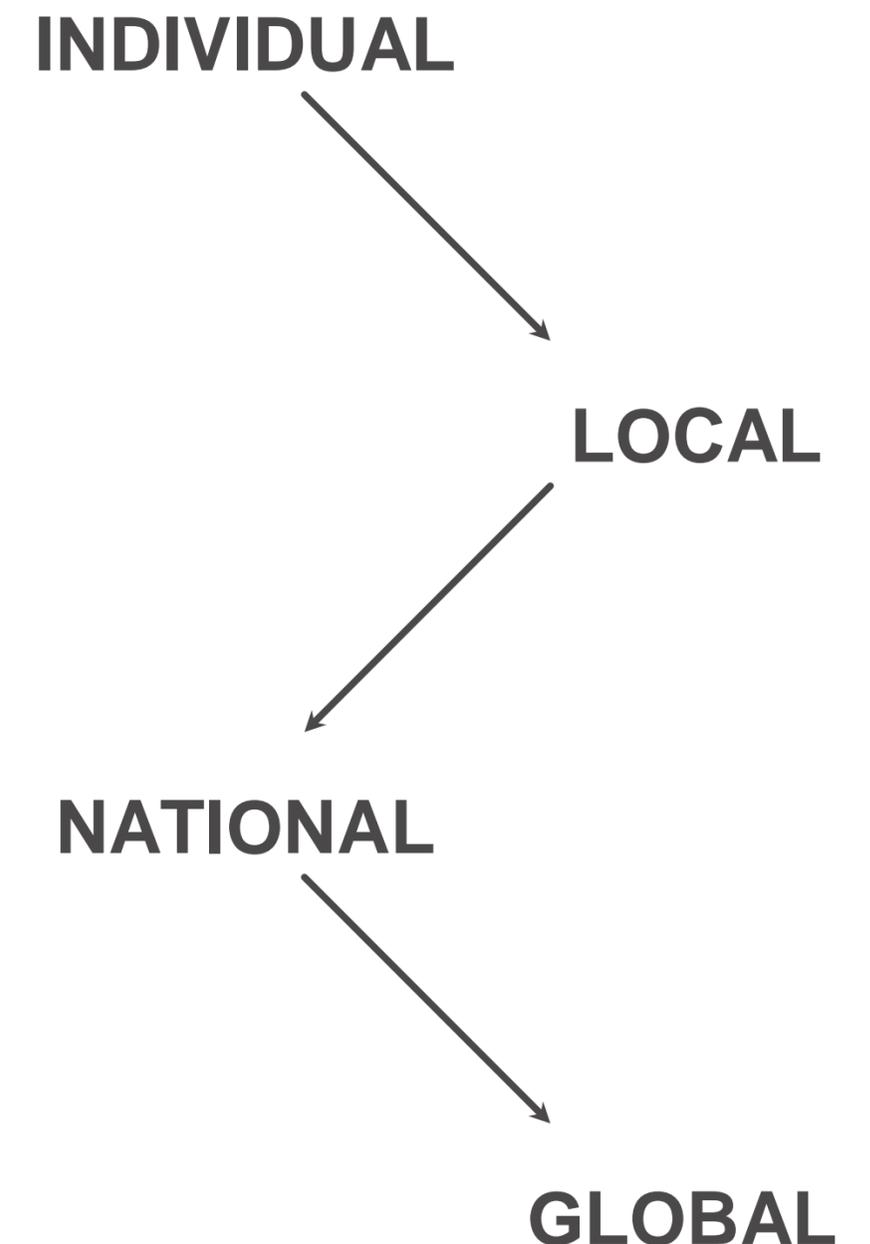
Introduction

Climate justice according to the UC Center for Climate Justice

“Climate Justice recognizes the disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income communities and communities of color around the world, the people and places least responsible for the problem.”

A quote from *Climate Futures: Reimagining Global Climate Justice*

"Only movements that firmly identify themselves within historical movements for social justice and change, and that arise from this planetary system failure, will be able to mobilize society-wide transformations around the globe. These movements have often based their strategies and tactics on challenging the forces that continue to deepen this historical ecological rift."



Background

Climate justice at international conventions

- UN climate conventions implemented in the 1990s
- The Paris Agreement recognizes the concept of climate justice

Exploring global disproportionate impacts

- "Climate change is not only an environmental problem: it interacts with social systems, privileges and embedded injustices, and affects people of different class, race, gender, geography and generation unequally." ([Timperley, 2021](#))
- "Many poorer countries haven't had the chance to amass wealth from burning huge amounts of fossil fuels, but are now being asked to give them up." ([Timperley, 2021](#))



Addressing Global Climate Justice

01

Understand the roles of climate change, colonialism, and capitalism.

Why is it important to consider the colonial past and its current implications to ensure climate justice?

How does your current political system fail to respond to justice issues?

02

Understand the role of culture.

Perspectives of gender, indigeneity, race, sexuality, sustainability, etc. differ globally and locally and through language and dialects.

Although there are similar issues across the globe, solutions are not one-size-fits-all.

How can solutions be designed to be culturally adept?

03

Understand past and current efforts.

Issues do not go unnoticed, especially by those who are affected firsthand. Action often follows in varying capacities.

How can acknowledging and assessing existing efforts propel solutions?

Considering the Origins of the CJ Movement

The London School of Economics states that the climate justice movement was "born primarily from the advocacy of people of colour both from the Global South and within rich countries, particularly the United States"

Brainstorm

- Does the origin of the climate justice movement influence what types of issues are brought to the global forefront (ex: in media)? Why or why not?
- Can focusing on a country's economic means deter from its internal disadvantaged groups? Why or why not?



Zoi Lunyova on Canva

Global Oil Dependency

PART 2

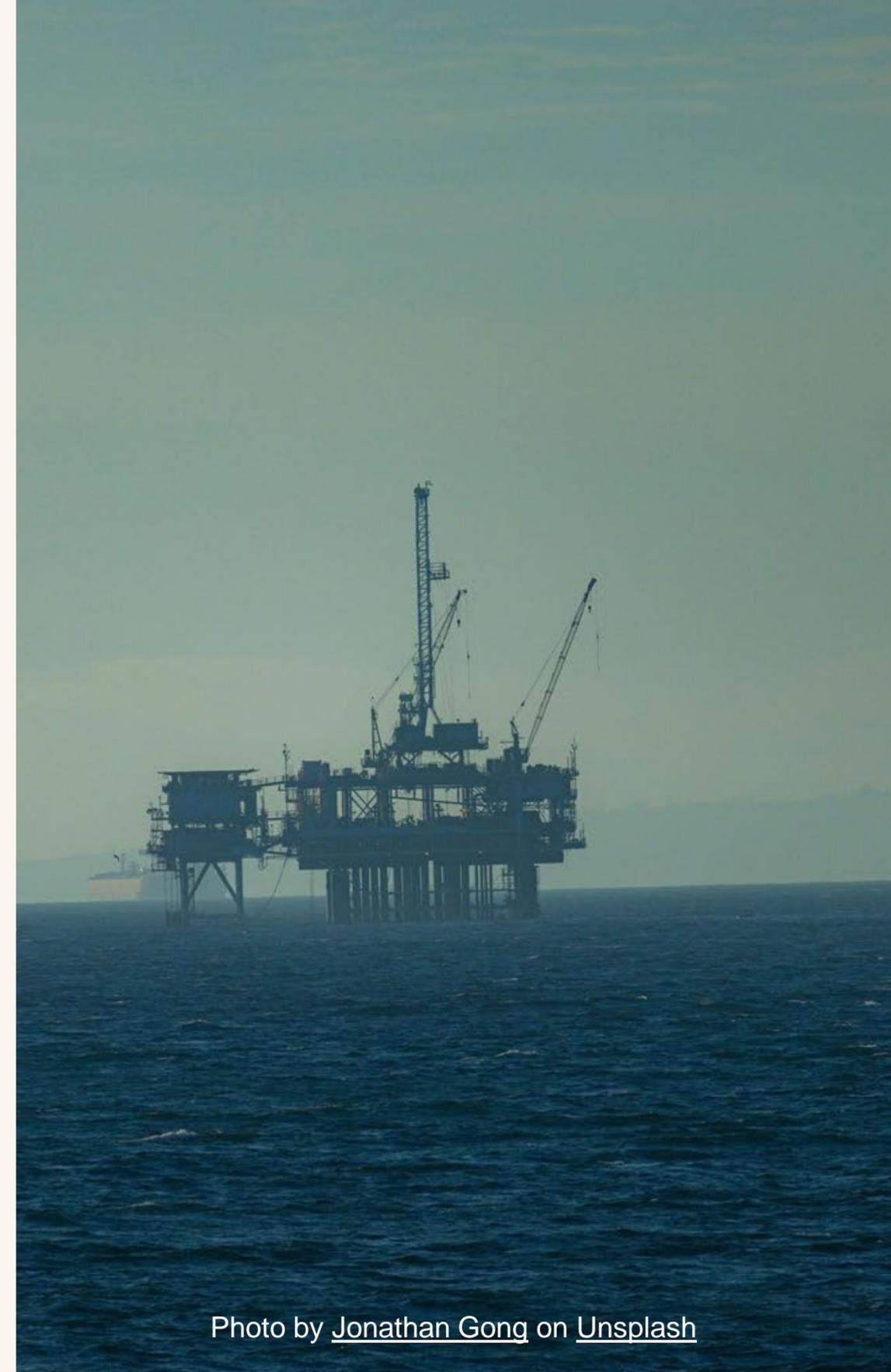


Photo by [Jonathan Gong](#) on [Unsplash](#)

ACTIVITY #1

THE BEGINNING AND END OF OIL INDUSTRY AND DEPENDENCY

Watch

[The end of oil, explained](#)

[The end of oil, explained](#)

SUBSCRIBE

Post-video discussion questions

- How has the oil industry cemented itself into nations that prioritized other industries?
- Why do nations and laborers of these nations not experience greater benefit from the oil industry's wealth?
- What is a "resource curse" and what are other resources/countries that observe this term?
- What are some strengths and weaknesses of the video?

Create and Consider

In your groups, create a concept map of the elements needed to reduce the need for fossil fuels, and consider this question: Are these solutions realistic and justice-centered?

For a step further, add how these solutions can be implemented on both an individual and community scale.

ACTIVITY #2

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OIL DEPENDENCY AND COLONIALISM

<https://doi.org/10.26593/sentris.v3i2.6106.168-182>

Colonial Legacy and Development: Reflection on Nigeria's Oil Dependency and Economic Resilience amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

This paper argues that the lack of economic diversification caused by colonial practices serves as the cause of Nigeria's dependency towards the oil sector, hence exacerbating their economic condition amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. What began as colonialism with the British Empire has carried out into today's day and age as Nigeria's economic vulnerability and dependency on its oil industry. Despite previous experiences in facing crises due to fluctuating global oil markets, it is apparent that the sector of mining and quarrying –including oil– still holds a great proportion of Nigeria's domestic revenue sources, despite attempts to diversify the country's economic portfolio. It is clear that Nigeria's lack of diversification of economic sources as a colonial legacy makes the country more vulnerable towards crisis, especially in the context of COVID-19. Nigeria's dependency on Oil in the wake of post-colonialism offers a good example of the vulnerable nature of economies that lack diversification. Furthermore, this study uses literature findings as its main source of data. One can also see literature comparison of the concept regarding the impact of neo-colonial frameworks towards former colonies.

Keywords: neo-colonialism, Colonial Legacy, Economic Diversification, Crude Oil.

Read and analyze

Colonial Legacy and Development: Reflection on Nigeria's Oil Dependency and Economic Resilience amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

Discussion question

- What is neocolonialism and how can its structure influence Nigerian national profits and internal conflict?
- What are some ways in which mono-product society can occur? How can this affect internal labor opportunities of different specialties?
- How can communities that depend on the oil industry be economically empowered?

Fossil Fuels in the Global South

PART 3



ACTIVITY #3

THE BEGINNING AND END OF OIL INDUSTRY AND DEPENDENCY

Watch

[A new social contract for global climate justice](#)



Un nuevo contrato social por la justicia climática mundial

1,466,536 plays | Huma Yusuf | TED Countdown London Session 2022 • October 2022

Discussion prompt

Yusuf highlights Pakistan and the global consequences of marginalizing climatically vulnerable nations. Yusuf also mentions the idea of "climate creditors".

What are some examples of other climate creditors and countries fighting back?

Example: [Malaysia returning plastic waste to countries](#)

ACTIVITY #4

WHO GETS TO BURN FOSSIL FUELS?

Read

- *Fossil Capitalism in the Global South*
- *Who gets to keep burning fossil fuels as the planet heats up?*

Watch

What is Climate Justice?

Consider

"The accompanying issues of justice concern relations between poor and rich nations and between present and future generations. For example, should not the less developed and more populous countries (like China and India) have a greater right to pollute, while the developed nations take on more responsibility to make deep cuts in their emissions and undertake financial commitments to help the developing nations achieve their goals?" (*Climate Futures: Reimagining Global Climate Justice*)

Debate question

Do poorer nations with fewer global emissions have the right to pollute as richer nations/historically high polluters take on the responsibility of significant emission reductions?

Global Impacts of Mining

PART 4



ACTIVITY #5

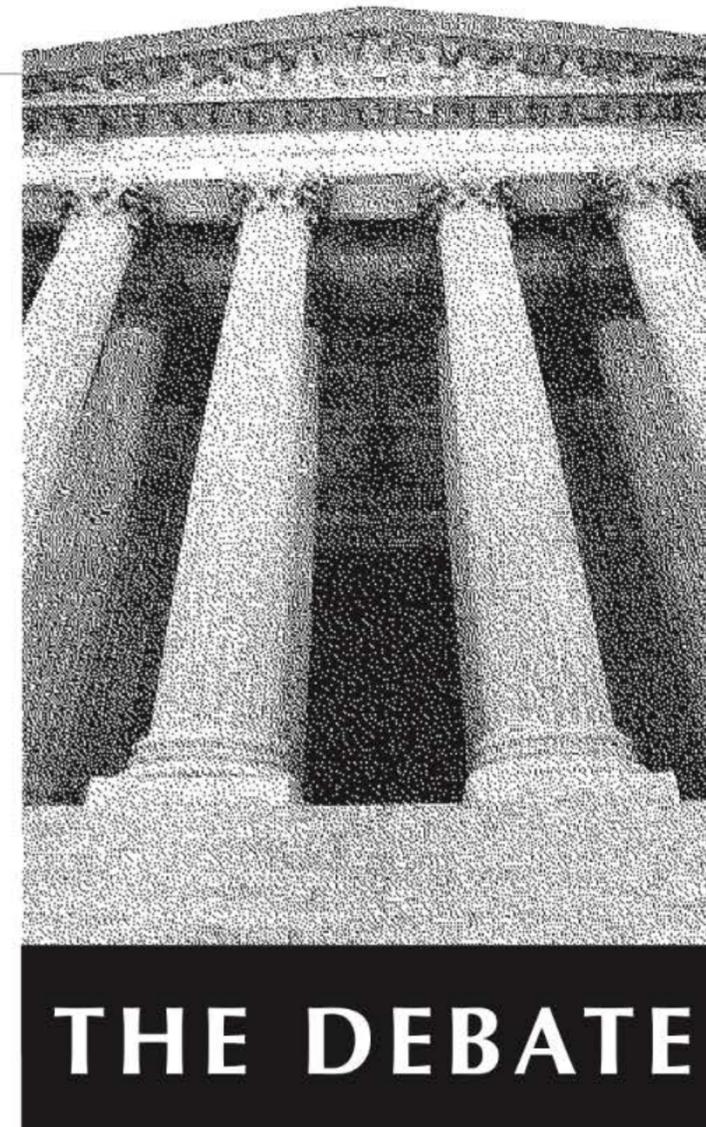
CONSIDERING THE NECESSITY OF MINERALS

Read

How Can U.S. Safely Mine Minerals Critical to a Carbon-Free Economy?

See the next slide for discussion questions →

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How Can U.S. Safely Mine Minerals Critical to a Carbon-Free Economy?

Last year, the International Energy Agency warned that, according to current supply projections, the world may not have enough needed minerals to power a carbon-

more minerals means more mining—a process that can entail significant environmental and social impacts. They include potential water quality concerns, intrusions onto Indige-

ACTIVITY #5

CONSIDERING THE NECESSITY OF MINERALS

Group 1: Supply chain

- Compton expresses skepticism regarding matching energy demand with a stream of recycled metals. Is this skepticism warranted? Why or why not?
- What solutions does Compton propose? How can these be realized on both an individual & community level?

Group 2: Reform and energy

Henderson outlines the health damage & continued neglect for native communities on public land. What solutions does Henderson outline? How can these proposed solutions be exercised on an individual & community level?

Group 3: Electricity

Mergen addresses claims that lithium mines are essential to a net-zero economy despite continued opposition and failed land protection. What solutions does Mergen propose? Do you think that this monetary proposal is enough? Why or Why not?

Group 4: International cooperation

Odell addresses the US's high GHG emissions and large import rates of mined goods causing environmental & social harms in many regions, including Latin America. What does Odell propose in terms of country relations and internal solutions? How can these proposed solutions be exercised on an individual & community level?

Group 5: Just transition

Mergen addresses claims that lithium mines are essential to a net-zero economy despite continued opposition and failed land protection. What solutions does Mergen propose? Do you think that this monetary proposal is enough? Why or Why not?

Group 6: US mineral potential

Mergen addresses claims that lithium mines are essential to a net-zero economy despite continued opposition and failed land protection. What solutions does Mergen propose? Do you think that this monetary proposal is enough? Why or Why not?

ACTIVITY #6

MINING CASE STUDY IN CHILE

Read

Hydrosocial Displacements: Climate Change and Community Relations in Chile's Mining Regions

Before reading

Define hydrosocial conflict. What are some examples?



WHITE PAPER SERIES

Hydrosocial Displacements

Climate Change and Community Relations in Chile's Mining Regions

Scott D. Odell

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Natural Climate Solutions

PART 5



Photo by [Aditya Hegde](#) on [Unsplash](#)

COMMUNITY BUILDING AS A SOLUTION

Explore

Creative Capacity Building

Discussion questions

- What does it mean to foster Creative Capacity Building?
- Why is it important to empower groups to foster their own solutions? How is that different from including a community in planning solutions?



MITD-Lab

ACTIVITY #8

ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE

Before reading...

Discuss: What experiences have you had related to environmental equity?

Read

Environmental Equity and Racial Justice

Discuss

Discuss and list the key themes of environmental equity and racial justice.

What this reading covers

- How interconnected challenges center community-led natural adaption and mitigation climate solutions (ex: racial justice)
- Disproportionate affects, focused on Afro-decsendant populations in Latin America and Caribbean
- The slave trade, colonialism, results of geographical isolation
- Significant contributions despite disproportionate risk exposure and unequal access
- Black/Afro-descendant Natural Belt of the Americas (ANBA)
- The importance of creating and reinforcing existing networks to strengthen communities

For more information about Afro-descendant communities and the climate crisis, visit MIT's [AIFCC webpage](#).

"Floating Garden: Goalbari, Bangladesh": Photo courtesy of World Resources Institute on [Flickr](#). License: CC BY-NC-SA.

ACTIVITY #9

EXPLORING HISTORIC CULTURAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Read

The remarkable floating gardens of Bangladesh

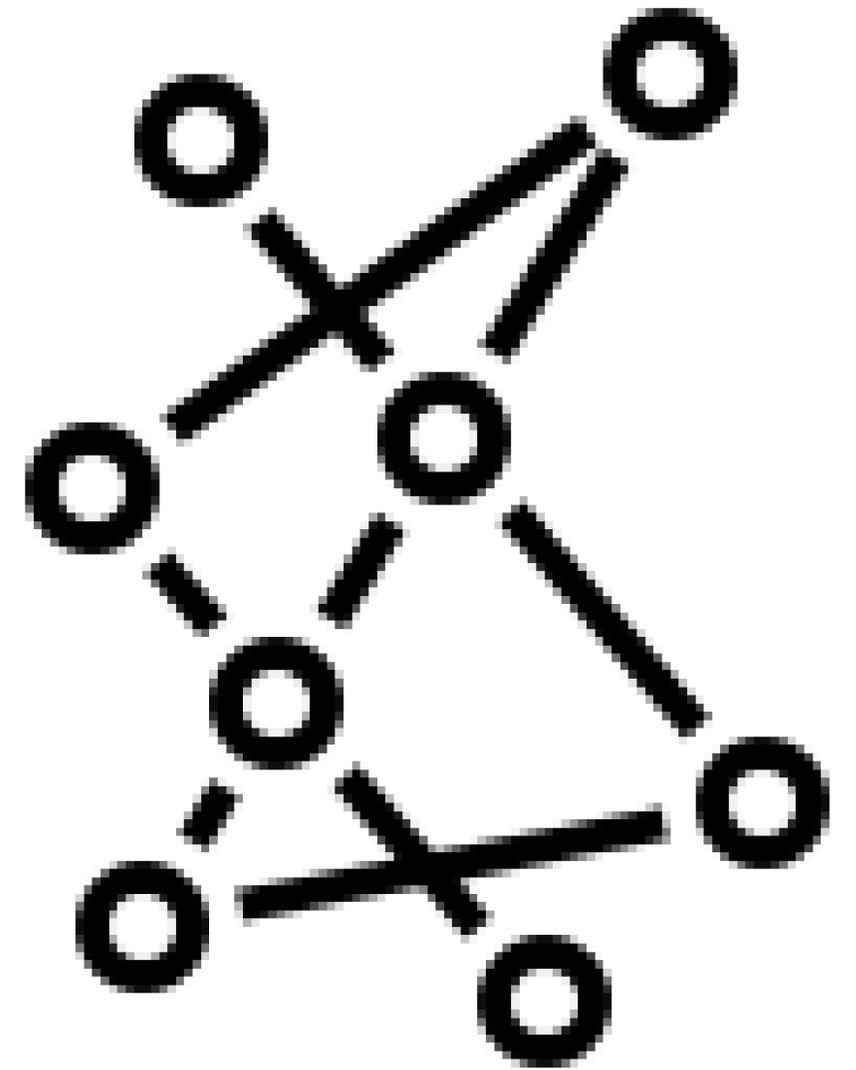
Discussion prompt

Using the previous reading as an example, think about some historic cultural climate adaptations. Explore how these adaptations are used today to combat issues including -- but not limited to -- food security, energy efficiency, and cultural preservation.



Current Connections

PART 6



ACTIVITY #10

Global Climate and Justice Advocates

Read the short bios of 12 climate activists from around the world.

Discuss with a partner and/or share out with the class

- Which activist's work sticks out to you? Why? What are they doing for environmental protections and climate justice? Is it highly localized or does it have a global impact?
- How do you think global action plans differ from local climate action?
- How is engaging activists from around the world a climate justice approach?



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Beyond the Module

PART 7



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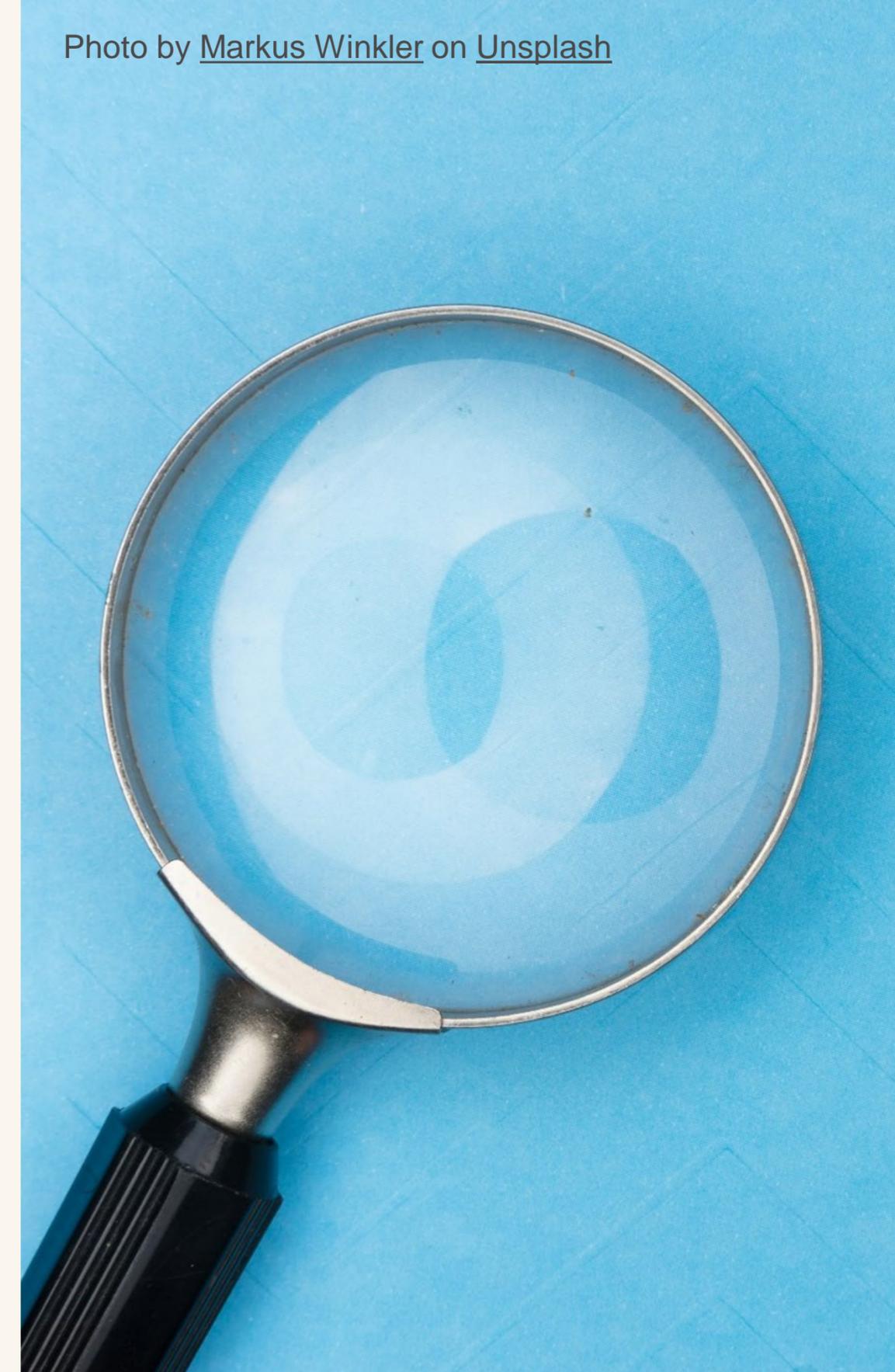
PROJECT OPTION #1

Global Issues Through a Climate Justice Lens

Prompt suggestion

Individually or with a group, use the resources below to learn about a topic within the context of global climate justice to present in any format with the class. One option is to pinpoint local climate injustice and assess it on a global scale and to propose solutions on both an individual and community scale.

- [Decolonial climate justice](#)
- [Food security](#)
- [EN-ROADS](#)
- [The true cost](#)
- [Decoloniality practices](#)
- [Risk management](#)
- [Klimaforum, 09](#)
- [IPCC acronyms](#)
- [Climate futures](#)



For more resources on climate and environmental justice: **Please explore other modules in the Climate Justice Instructional Toolkit.**



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