

# Creating Our World Transcript

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Name

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Date

Directions: Use this transcript along with Human Impact Cards Set 1. Student groups will write on the back of the Human Impact Cards throughout the story.

Begin reading aloud to students by saying...

*We are taking an imaginary walk through an area near what will become Yellowstone National Park. We are in the past, before humans made any permanent changes to the landscape. As we go, you'll be deciding how people might have made this land easier to live on. As we come to each development point in the story, your group will review your Human Impact Cards and select the best human impact for the situation. For the card you select, answer the two questions on the back:*

- 1) *How does this human impact benefit people?*
- 2) *How does this human impact change the environment?*

We have been walking together as a nomadic people for a long time. One day, we come upon a river. It provides plenty of food to eat and clean water.

- What kind of food can we find here? (fish, edible plants, elk)
- Look at your cards. How will we get the food? (fishing)

Even though we have always been nomads, this river seems like a good place to stop and maybe stay for a while. The longer we stay, the more people there are. There are now camps on both sides of the river. Eventually, one camp on the side of the river turns into something else, something more permanent than a camp.

Now that we're here, we've found that the soil is good for growing plants, but the river tends to flood. We like the extra water, but it is pretty hard on our farms.

- Use your cards. How can we stop the river from flooding? (build a dam)
- How can that benefit us? (by controlling the water, we can better manage our farming operation)
- How will that change the river? (redirects the water, creates a lake that wasn't there before, etc.)

The crops and fish are a good source of food, but we want to make hunting elk easier. They have been traveling farther away from us since we settled on the land. Just one elk can feed a family for a long time.

- Look at your cards. How can we keep elk coming close to our community to make hunting easier? (feeding wildlife)
- How does that benefit us? (lures elk in)
- How would that change the environment? (changes elks' routes, elk will stop eating the natural grass, brings other unwanted animals)

It's hard to get to our trading partners when we have to hike through rough terrain.

- Look at your cards. What can we build that might make it easier to trade with people who are far away? (highway)
- How will that benefit us? (faster, more direct routes)
- How will that change the forest? (trees are cut down, suddenly a lot of people are passing through, etc.)

We now have established roads and permanent buildings, and our communities on either side of the river keep growing and growing. There are markets in a central area of the community.

- Look at your cards. What have we created? (a town or a city)
- How does that benefit us? (increased safety, more food is available, etc.)
- How might establishing a town or city change this spot by the river? (loss of trees to construction, reducing the number of animals through hunting and fishing, etc.)

Pretty soon, there are so many buildings in the town that there is no more space to build. We start to build farther and farther out into the surrounding environment.

- Look at your cards. What is happening to our community? (urban sprawl)
- How might that benefit us? (neighborhoods, more resources, things get more convenient)
- How might that change the environment? (more trees are cut down, need new irrigation or bridges, maybe another dam, etc.)

Growing communities like this means we need more food production. Some of the ways that we can produce food include growing crops, hunting game animals, or fishing from the river.

- Look at your cards. What do we need to do to produce more food? (create more cropland, put up fences to secure elk on a ranch)
- How does that benefit us? (food supply is stable)
- How might that change the environment? (contained elk eat all the grass within a small area)

Growing communities produce a lot of waste. What can we do with it?

- Look at your cards. Where should we put our waste? (landfill)
- How does that benefit us? (the garbage is out of sight)
- How might that change the river and the forest? (contaminate the soil, air, and/or water)

Although we've always enjoyed a good trading relationship with our neighbors, we're finding that some people are cutting our fences and stealing elk from the ranches. This leaves holes for the animals to escape and lets predators, like wolves, in to kill the remaining elk.

- Look at your cards. How can we keep unwanted people and predators from coming through certain areas? (build a wall)
- How does that benefit us? (keep our elk safe from thieves and predators)
- How might that change the environment? (changes the way animals can move through the environment, especially small animals that could have easily passed through fences)

Years go by and we have made a lot of advancements. We now know how to use the dam to produce electricity. This means we don't have to depend on the sun to be our light source anymore. We can store the electricity to use whenever we want.

- In what ways can we use the electricity when there is no sunlight? (Nighttime lights)
- How does the benefit us? (we can see in the dark)
- How might that change the environment? (confuse animals)