

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: WALL.E - A study of the human impact on the Earth.

PREVIEWING ACTIVITY – Discuss the following questions.

- *Should we be concerned about the condition of the Earth? Why or why not?*
- *How has life and American Society changed in the last 100 years?*
- *What has enabled so much change to occur in such a short time?*
- *Do you think technology is a curse or a cure for American Society?*
- *How might life and American Society change in the future – the next 100 years?*
- *With the way in which our technology is ever increasing, could you envision a future in which robots and machines perform many of the activities currently done by man?*
- *Do you think life would be better or worse if we had robots and machines to perform everyday tasks?*

This movie takes place in the 22nd century. Wall.e is a Waste Allocation Load Lifter - Earth Class and he is the last of his kind on Earth. “The Earth is a desolate wasteland, devoid of life, overflowing with the detritus from centuries of consumerism.”

We will view several scenes of the movie then stop it to discuss the following questions.

- How is the Earth of the 22nd century different from the Earth of today?
- Do you see us as progressing toward the Earth depicted in the movie?
- What human activities might contribute to us progressing toward the Earth depicted in the movie?
- Do you think the Earth as depicted in the movie is far fetched?
- What human activities led to the Earth of the 22nd century?

- What was Wall.e designed to do? (What is his “directive”?)
- Are there others like Wall.e on the Earth? What has happened to them?
- Why has this not happened to Wall.e?
- How has Wall.e continued to work with no power supply?
- How does Wall.e fix himself when he gets damaged?
- How is this significant given our recent study of waste and recycling?

- Does Wall.e have a home? What are some of the items in his home?
- What is Wall.e’s hobby? Why do you think he does this?

- Why is the cockroach significant?
- What does Wall.e do with the plant when he finds it ? Why do you think he does this?
- Why is the plant significant?

- Why has Eve (extraterrestrial vegetation evaluator) been sent to Earth? (What is her “directive”?)
- Wall.e takes Eve to his home. What are some additional items that you notice in his home?
- What are some human characteristics that Wall.e displays?

- What does Eve do when Wall.e presents the plant to her?

- What did the rocket pass through (break through) on its exit from Earth's orbit?
- How is this significant in light of recent news regarding the US spy satellite that was falling from Earth's orbit (reported in 2008)?
- How does the Earth look from space? Why? What was on the moon?
- What do you notice about the humans? How are they different in the 22nd century?
- What changes have occurred in their physical bodies?
- What changes have occurred in their activities?
- Is this indicative of society today? Explain.
- How was lunch served? How is this indicative of today?

- What do kids, teens and many adults spend much of their time doing? Not doing?
- How has this affected the activities which they engage in?
- Are we more removed from the natural world?

- What is BnL? How is this fictional corporation characteristic of some of today's corporations?
- What does BnL (Buy n Large) indicate about today's American society?

- What activities do machines and robots perform for the humans?

- What are the humans directed to do when the pod (Eve) containing the plant reaches the axiom?
- When the captain opens Eve she is empty. What happened to the plant she contained?

- The captain does some research about soil and planet Earth. What realization does the captain have about the condition of planet Earth? Why does he have to look up this information?
- What realization does the captain have regarding planet Earth and why he must go back to Earth?

- As the captain watches a video from the president of Buy n Large he is told that the Earth is unsustainable. One of the goals of environmental science is sustainability. What is sustainability?

- What happens to the trash produced by the axiom? Where does it go?
- Isn't this interesting thinking about the reason the humans had to leave Earth in the first place?
- Wall.e gets damaged and Eve repairs him, however, he is different. How is Wall.e different?
- One thing that is so appealing about the movie is the interaction between Wall.e and Eve. In fact, Wall.e and Eve interact more than the humans do. **THINK ABOUT THIS**....Are we so dependent upon and linked to technology (cell phones, ipods, computers, video games,...) that we have sacrificed some of that which makes us human – human contact and interaction?

- What do the humans find is the condition of the Earth when they return?
- What do the humans do upon returning to the Earth?

- As the movie ends, what hope do you have that the humans will be successful in their recolonization of the Earth? Do you see any evidence of this?

After viewing the movie discuss the following.

- Is has been said that “it is relationships that make us fully human”? Why were the humans on board the Axiom without relationships? What activities do we engage in that do not build relationships? How is this a detriment to families and society?
- Did you enjoy the movie? What lessons do you take with you from the movie?

After viewing the movie, write a paragraph in response to the following.

- “Technology distances us from the wonder of creation.”
- “Wall-E is a call to wake up, stand up, and abandon ship.”
- Could this movie be a look into the future? What do you think?
- What is sustainability? Are we creating a culture of sustainability? If not, why aren’t we?

What was your opinion of the movie? What lessons did **YOU LEARN** from the movie?