2019-20 Curriculum: Nature and Our Cities

More people live in cities today than ever before. As urban areas expand, their needs increase as well—for energy, transportation, housing, waste disposal, and other services. However, the actions city leaders and residents take to support public health and infrastructure sometimes create new challenges for local and global ecosystems. Through the 2019-20 Global Scholars curriculum, students investigate the impacts of urbanization and develop solutions that improve the lives of people in cities while protecting the natural environment and biodiversity worldwide.

There are no fees to participate.
For more information, visit www.globalcities.org.

Unit 1: Introduction to Global Scholars
Students are oriented to the Global Scholars e-classroom and begin to develop the global and digital citizenship skills they will use throughout the year. They write their first discussion posts to meet their international peers and discuss their favorite nature-related activities. They create videos to introduce their school, city, and what it means to be a Global Scholar.

Unit 2: Nature in Our Lives
Students investigate their personal relationship with the environment around them. They observe local flora, fauna, and landscapes, analyze how nature influences their daily lives, cultures, and health, and compare perspectives with international peers. Students map their community and propose how they can contribute to preserving and expanding access to natural spaces.

Unit 3: Building Sustainable Cities
Students analyze the importance of nature to city infrastructure and public health, and the impacts of urbanization on local environments. They discover how cities around the world are creating nature-based solutions to urban problems, from green roofs that cool buildings and filter air to compost systems that reduce waste. Students design green spaces that benefit both their neighborhoods and local ecosystems.

Unit 4: Our Natural World
Students examine how biodiversity and ecosystems worldwide benefit people. They learn how the growth of individual cities contributes to global environmental challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and pollution, and how these in turn affect biodiversity and human lives across the globe. Students conduct surveys to identify the issues of greatest importance in their communities and recommend local solutions.

Unit 5: Community Action Project
Students design, implement, and document projects to protect the natural environment in their cities by conserving natural spaces, promoting biodiversity, and reducing pollution. Together with their classmates, they look to cities around the world for inspiration as they create solutions within their local communities.

Global Scholars is sponsored by Global Cities, Inc.
© 2019 Global Cities, Inc. All rights reserved.