

Educating the Next Generation

Barbara Huth & Carol Bliese

2025-2026

POPULATION EDUCATION

Student contest overview

The Challenge: Create a one minute video that addresses one of this year's **global topics**, connects the topic to **human population growth**, and suggests a **sustainable solution**.

- Open to grades 6-12 (or international equivalent)
- Prizes awarded to 80+ students
- Runs every year; Opens in September



Last year's global topics



Child Wellbeing

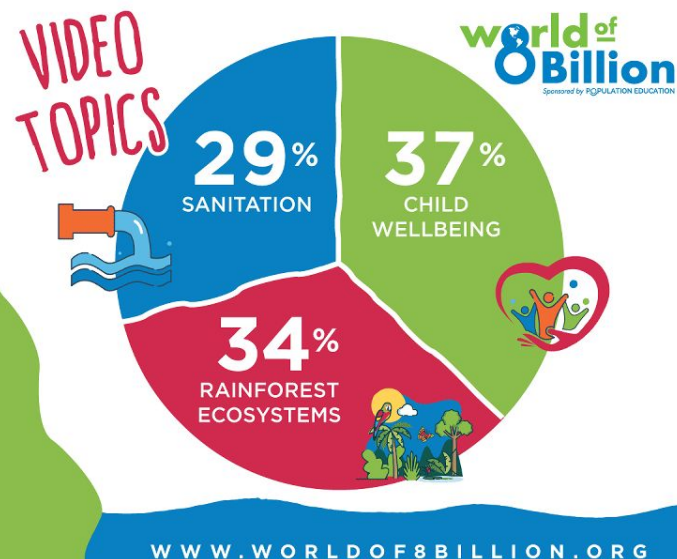
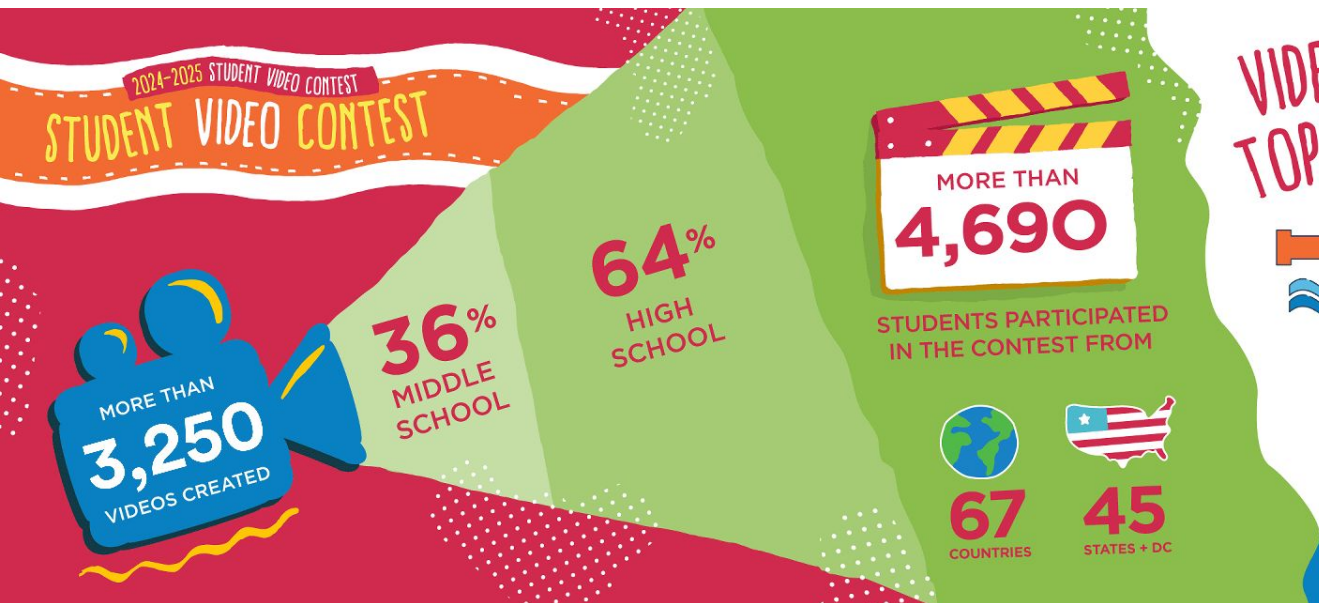


**Rainforest
Ecosystems**



Sanitation

2024-2025 Highlights



Mini Grant Opportunity for Teachers!

Get up to \$500 to support the contest in your classroom.

Deadline to apply -
October 31, 2025

worldof8billion.org/grant/



Thank you to our judges



— — —
Harriet Alexander
Gervin Apatinga
Belaynesh Aragaw
Ginelle Aziz
Ginny Beauregard
Mike Bechtel
Robert Blum
Meghna Chakkraborty
Amina Chouairi
Pefole Fotsing Clause Winnie
Kirsten de Vette
Isabela Espindola
Dani Gaillard-Picher
Bertha Cecilia Garcia Cienfuegos
Cynthia Gardner
Linda Hammon

Zita Holbourne
Aster Hordofa
Erin Huber
Edith Kamundi
Elizabeth Katoa
Khodi Kaviani
Catherine Knoop
Elizabeth Koch
Gene Kutscher
Gail Luera
Deborah Mabey
Marty Martell
Cheryl Miller-Arndt
Debbie Nelson
Melvine Ouyo
Lesley Pories

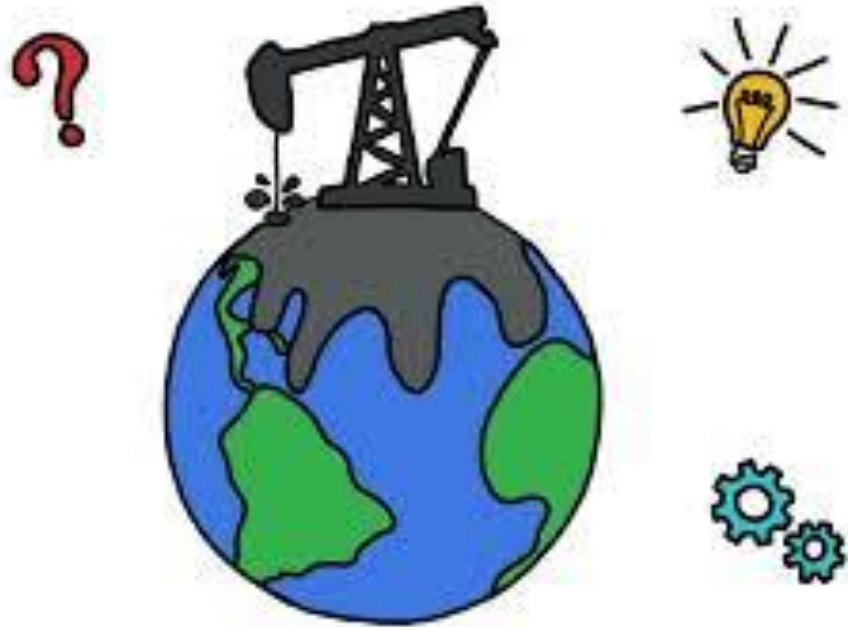
Kathy Raffel
Onja Rzafindratsima
Sydney Rodman
Sabrina Farah Salsabilla
John Seager
Maria Seitz
Trudy Swan
Keshari Tiwari
Leonore Tjikune Cavalier
Jerry Van Den Berge
Paula Waatainen
Carol Ward
Andrea Williams
Jill Williams
JD Williams
Kimberly Worsham



FILM SCREENING

★ World of 8 Billion Student Video Contest ★

1st Place: Rainforest Ecosystems, High School



Hannah Allas & Anwitha Aruva

“The Bioremediation Blueprint: Restoring Rainforests”



- We're passionate about biology, especially ecosystems and their dependencies
- We enjoyed illustrating the drawings for our video
- We learned about the process of bioremediation
- Take-away: While the growing population is inevitable, action is possible and necessary!

1st Place: Rainforest Ecosystems, Middle School



Alisha Wald

“Rainforest Deforestation”



- I chose the topic of rainforest deforestation, due to my ties to my family in Malaysia, where I have seen rainforest disappear over time first hand.
- My favorite part of making the video was editing it to have meaningful visuals to tell a strong story.
- Surprising fact: rainforest deforestation can affect everyone by adding carbon emissions to our atmosphere through degradation and burning of forests.
- I hope people can take-away that deforestation affects everyone, where it can add to the dangers of Climate Change as a whole.

1st Place: Child Wellbeing, High School



Ha Jin Sung

“Immunizing the World: Solar Powered Vaccine Refrigerators”



- I have always been very passionate about the intersection between modern innovations and public health
 - Vaccinations for young children is a large issue that our world grapples with, especially due to the lack of infrastructure in more rural areas — solar powered refrigerators have so much potential to mitigate these immunization struggles
- Something surprising I learned was that in 2023, 14.5 million children under the age of 1 were classified as "zero-dose" children — they never received a single vaccination
- I hope a takeaway from my video is that there is always hope and innovative methods we can help curate to help tackle even the most dire and widespread issues in our world. Immunization equity is essential for nurturing healthy, future generations
- My favorite part of making my video was visualizing concepts & data through drawings and animations

1st Place: Child Wellbeing, Middle School



Ismatulloh Bakhtiyorov, Yulduz Juliboyeva & Rukhshona Isakova

“Brighter Future for Every Child”



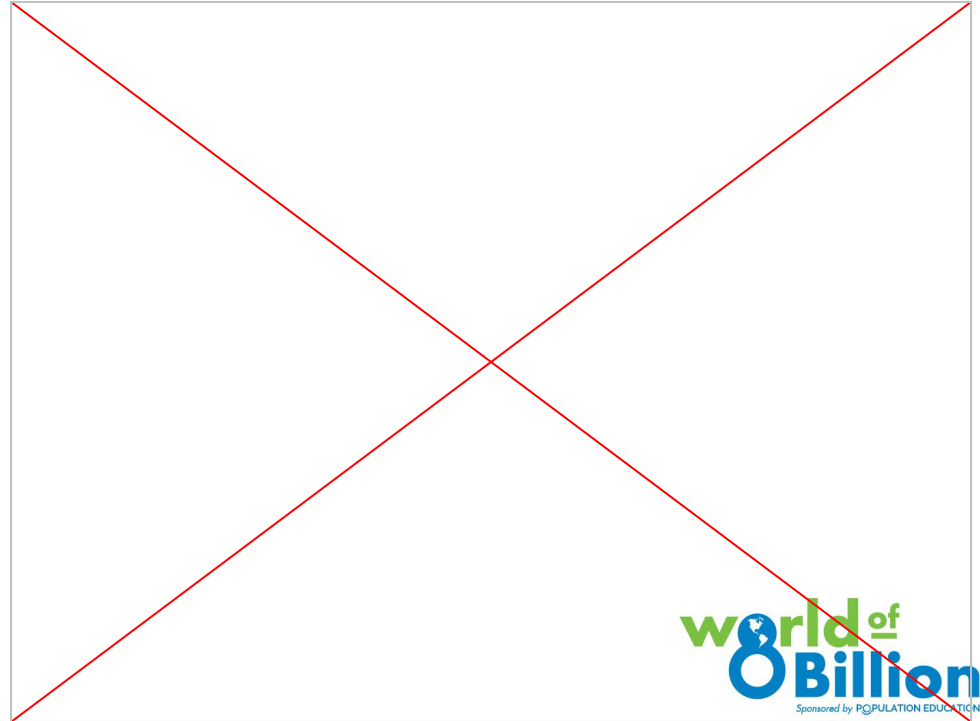
- We were familiar with child wellbeing challenges globally and wanted to find solutions.
- Our favorite part was how each group member was able to contribute their strengths in creating the video.
- Our research gave us a better understanding of the inequitable access to resources many children face all over the world and how a growing population can increase inequalities.
- We really enjoyed how the contest allowed us to explore a global topic, apply our diverse talents, and work collaboratively to produce a meaningful piece of content.

1st Place: Sanitation, High School



Lynette Mujaasi Kaye

“Flushing Out the Crisis: Ending Open Defecation in Uganda”



1st Place: Sanitation, Middle School



David & Danny Unatin

“Rain, Runoff, and 8 Billion: How Population Growth Pollutes Our Water”



- We chose this topic because it's personal and we can actually do something about it.
- Our favorite part of making the video was filming at the UCLA SEALab.
- Surprising facts: Los Angeles can send up to 10 billion gallons of polluted runoff into the ocean on just one rainy day. Population growth contributes significantly to pollution.
- We hope people realize that stormwater pollution is a serious problem, but also that there are simple, nature-based solutions that can make a big difference.

This Year's Global Topics



Energy



Wetlands



Economics

- Check out the [research backgrounders](#) for each of the global topics!

Timeline

- Contest Opened:
September 3, 2025
- Contest Closes:
March 4, 2026
- Winners Announced:
May 19, 2026



Teacher Resources

- Lesson plans to kick off the contest and for each global topic.
- Connections to AP classes
- Blogs with tips and additional content, and more!

 GRADES: 4-8 ECONOMICS Chips of Trade Acting as countries in a simulation game, students discuss how resources are inequitably distributed throughout the world and how this imbalance motivates trade.	 GRADES: 9-12 ECONOMICS Hill of Beans Students compare wealth of the average person in the world to that of a person living in the U.S. and a person living in the Central African Republic, one of the poorest nations in the world.	 GRADES: 4-8 ENERGY Like Oil and Water Students use the engineering design process to create and test prototypes for cleaning up oil spills.
 GRADES: 9-12 ENERGY Lighting Up Lives By taking on the role of a community member, students analyze how energy poverty impacts people living in Monrovia, Liberia and create an action plan for a sustainable solution.	 GRADES: 6-8 WETLANDS In The News: Research for Tomorrow Through planning, writing, and performing a news telecast, students use information from current events articles to create fact-based predictions about what their futures might look like.	 GRADES: 9-12 WETLANDS Bye, Bye, Birdie Students determine a list of criteria to use when deciding the fate of endangered species, then conduct research on a specific species and create a presentation justifying its protection.

Hill of Beans

Students compare wealth of the average person in the world to that of a person living in a high-income country and a person living in a low-income country.

Comparing Wealth

Gross National Income (GNI) at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)

- GNI: measure of a nation's wealth, equaling the total domestic and foreign income claimed by residents of a country
- PPP: method of converting international currency to show its value in U.S. dollars and the power that currency has to purchase goods

Per capita average wealth = $\text{GNI PPP} / \text{population}$

Person's lifetime wealth = $\text{avg wealth} \times \text{avg life expectancy}$

Comparing Wealth: With \$ Amounts

Location	Per capita GNI PPP	Life expectancy	Lifetime wealth
World	\$17,587	73 years	\$1,283,851



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Comparing Wealth: With Sound

Location	Per capita GNI PPP	Life expectancy	Lifetime wealth
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Comparing Wealth: With Sound

Location	Per capita GNI PPP	Life expectancy	Lifetime wealth	Beans
World	\$17,587	73 years	\$1,283,851	23
United States	\$66,080	79 years	\$5,220,320	93
Central African Rep.	\$1,060	53 years	\$56,180	1



Reactions & Reflections

1. **Did receiving the relative wealth information through sound make you react differently than receiving it with numbers? How?**
2. How would your life be different if you had the wealth of a person living in the CAR?
3. Are there ways to increase the “hill of beans” for other countries?

Extending

1. Could the world support more people if we all lived with the wealth of an average resident of CAR?

People in high-income countries tend to use more resources over the course of their lifetime.

- a. CO₂: Per capita U.S. emissions is 238 times that of CAR
 - b. Water: Per capita U.S. withdraws is 87 times that of CAR
2. Would people be better off if we all lived with the wealth of an average resident of CAR?

Population Education

A program of Population Connection

POPULATION EDUCATION

Mission: Provide quality training and teaching materials for educators to help them teach about population and related topics in the classroom.

Goal: Prepare young people with the skills and knowledge to be the next generation of global citizens and change-makers.

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Scope of Work – 3 Key Areas

- ★ Curriculum Development & Dissemination
- ★ Teacher Workshops and Grad Course
- ★ International Student Video Contest

PopEd Teaching Materials



Science



English Language Arts



Social Studies



Communications

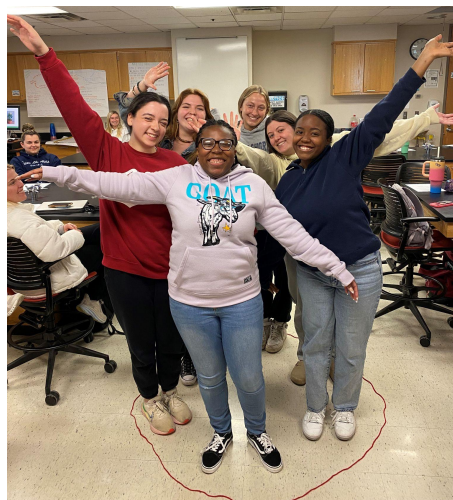
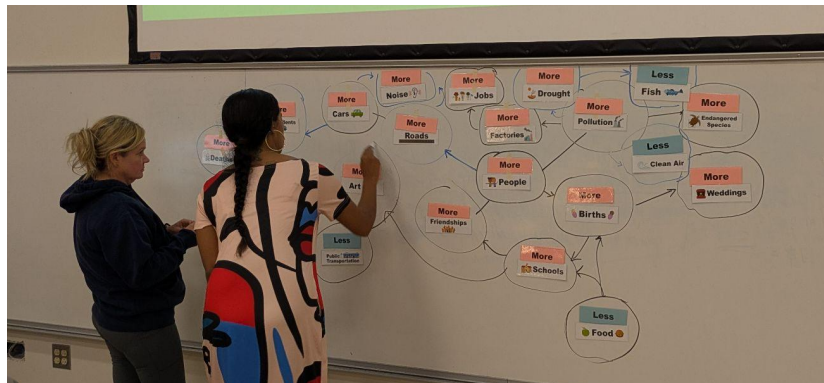


Math



Career & Tech Education

Grades: Kindergarten - 12th



World of 8 Billion Student Video Contest

- ★ Used by teachers as a classroom assignment
- ★ Individual students are invited to participate
- ★ Homeschool students/co-ops
- ★ International platform
- ★ Student-driven project that fosters commitment to the issues.



Feedback from Student Survey

"I really liked this contest. The concept of it is very interesting and I think it's very cool what this organization is doing. Thank you!"

"A super cool opportunity to learn more about the impacts that population growth has on our planet. It's also hopeful because people provide solutions for the issues that come up."

"I'm so happy this contest exists, because I was struggling to find an avenue to connect my deep interest in filmmaking and advocacy for global issues. Thank you to the World of 8 Billion team providing us with the resources we need to succeed, and laying them out in a way that is easy to access and learn from."

"Thank you for this amazing opportunity. It allowed me to explore my interest in environmental science while learning more about population growth."

"Out of all of the scholarships I've applied to, this has been my favorite."

Feedback from Teacher Survey

"I loved that it was a project based learning opportunity that allowed my students to learn about a topic and generate a solution using critical thinking and creativity."

"Thank you, education continues to be challenging !! More real world activities to trick them into THINKING and not wanting to just jump through a hoop and ask AI."

"I love this. I share it with my teaching colleagues for them to use in their Units. I am planning on doing this again next year, but I'm going to spend more time on the format, so your resources and activities are a huge help."

"It helped my students have a better understanding of current world problems that we're facing as our population grows."

"Fantastic. There is so much they learn from the entire process, including time management, how to delegate roles, and work with other students."

World of 8 Billion: Spreading the word

Share, share, share

Social images: Download and share

#Worldof8Billion

W8B Social Hub

Printable stickers for
teachers and students

Contest flyers



worldof8billion.org/teacher-resources/social-hub

Questions?