



ACTIVITY A SUSTAINABLE VISION

Time: 120-180 minutes

Days of Implementation: 2-3 days

Grade Level: Upper Secondary

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Alignment with STEAM subjects

Technology: Exploring AI tools to look for sustainable solutions.

Engineering: Designing model landmarks or urban sites to envision a city of the future.

Arts: Imagining future scenarios with sustainability at the center.

Related or achieved SDGs

- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: Considers how innovation plays a role in designing sustainable cities and developing renewable energy solutions.
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: Encourages hands-on experiences and creativity in envisioning a future sustainable urban location.

Objectives

By the end of the class, students will be able to:

- Identify how sustainable development affects landmarks and cities.
- Analyze how cities and regions are implementing sustainable actions.
- Envision a sustainable future for their city, region, or country, based on the SDGs.

Materials Needed

- Research tools (tablets, books)
- An AI Application that can generate and/or edit images using AI
- Colored cardboard, tape, glue, and scissors

Lesson Plan

1. Inquiry & Exploration

Hook:

Show a short video or real-life example of cities and regions already implementing sustainable actions.

Some examples are:

- [Creating sustainable cities](#) (Going Green).
- [How African cities are becoming greener and more sustainable](#) (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).
- [Singapore. Nature First](#) (World Economic Forum).

Discussion Questions:

- What are these cities or regions doing?
- What challenges are they responding to?
- What are the sustainability actions shown in these examples?
- What is SDG 11?
- Why is SDG 11 key for our future?

Group Brainstorming:

- Students discuss real-world urban challenges, such as rapid urbanization, transportation, waste management, or social inequalities.
- Students identify how these challenges are affecting important landmarks in their cities.

2. Investigation & Research

Capture the Moment:

- Students select a renowned landmark or iconic site that they admire.
- Students take a high-quality photograph of their chosen landmark and record the exact date and time that the photo was taken.¹

¹ If the students don't have the chance to go to a landmark, they can also choose a UNESCO World Heritage site from the Ages of Globalization Course Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/@AgesofGlobalization/videos>

Imagine the Future:

- Instruct students to select one of the 17 SDGs. They should select an SDG that significantly impacts their chosen landmark. For example, if their landmark is on the coast, they can select SDG 14.
- After choosing their landmark, students should choose from one of the following two scenarios:
 - Scenario 1: Visualize what the landmark might look like in ten years if their city, country, or region fails to address the chosen SDG.
 - Scenario 2: Envision how the landmark could evolve in ten years if their city, country, or region actively works towards achieving the SDGs.

3. Implementation & Design

Create Your Vision:

- Have the students envision the future of their selected landmark. They should consider how the landmark will be influenced by future technology, environmental impacts, and more. To create their future landmark, they can use artistic or digital tools. If desired, you can also give students a specific future time period.
 - Option A: AI-Powered Future: Utilize an AI image editing or generating tool to transform the original photo into a futuristic depiction of the chosen scenario.
 - Option B: Artistic Expression: Utilize a digital painting tool to visually represent the future of the landmark artistically.
 - Option C: Use paper, printed images, magazines, and/or art supplies to draw the future.

4. Testing & Reflection

After the students create their initial vision of their landmark, have them reflect on the following:

- What factors did you consider in designing the landmark?
- How could this vision become a reality?
- How can we protect landmarks from environmental impacts?
- How can you improve your design to protect the landmark?

5. Presentation & Action

Final Presentations:

Host a final presentation session where students can present their visions, explain their chosen landmark, and connect it to the SDGs.

Criteria

- Creativity in envisioning the future landmark.
- Artistic quality of the landmark.
- The ability to convey a strong message about sustainability through the image.
- The extent to which the submission aligns with the theme and follows the instructions.

Reflection

- Did students fully understand?
- What should I improve for next time?
- Was the lesson interesting enough for the students?