



Sustainable Development Goals

GRADE RANGE

9–12

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- **Review** and **classify** the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Perform** research to learn more about the oil and gas field.
- **Develop** and **present** a pitch that explains how an oil and gas company could support the Sustainable Development Goals.

OVERVIEW

In this activity, students will be introduced to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). After reviewing the SDGs and considering their potential if addressed by people, communities, companies, and countries around the world, students will pretend to work for a company in the oil and gas field. They will perform research to learn more about the field, and they will develop a pitch to share with their “colleagues” about how their company could support one of the Sustainable Development Goals. Before wrapping up, students will share their plans in order to exchange feedback and evaluate each other's ideas.

MATERIALS

- Device with internet access, one for the teacher
- *What is Sustainability?* [video](#) to project
- For pairs of students:
 - Devices with internet access
 - Sustainability Development Goals handout
 - Company Support handout

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Next Generation Science Standards

- **HS-ETS1-3:** Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental impacts.

English Language Arts Common Core Standards

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1:** Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1:** Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

PROCEDURE

Engage

- Write the words “sustainable development” on the board. Encourage students to share words and phrases that come to mind when they see this term. Eventually share that sustainable development involves making the world a better place without negatively affecting future generations.
- Elaborate on the concept by playing the *What is Sustainability?* [video](#). As students watch, encourage them to listen for the three main categories that must work together in order for sustainable development to occur.
- Once the video is complete, call on students to share the three main categories of sustainable development: the environment, the economy, and equity (fairness and justice).

Explore

- Project <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> to show students the Sustainability Development Goals. Explain that these goals:
 - were developed by the United Nations, which is an international organization made up of 193 countries who work together to discuss common problems and find shared solutions;
 - were created in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.¹
- Explain that students will now explore these goals on their own in order to better understand them. Instruct students to find a partner and give each pair one Sustainability Development handout and one device. Review the instructions on the handout and then give students time to complete the activity.

Apply

- Tell the class that it is *everyone's* responsibility to help the world work towards these SDGs, including countries, cities, companies, and individuals.
- Explain that today students will pretend they are leaders of a company as they consider the role their company can take in contributing to the SDGs. Distribute one Company Support handout to each student pair and review the directions together before students begin working.
- When there are 10 minutes left in the session, instruct pairs to form groups of four. Encourage pairs to share their pitches with each other, and challenge each pair to share one strong point and one suggestion for improvement to make each other's pitches more effective.
- Wrap up by asking one or two pairs to share their improved pitches with the class!

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Directions: Visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> to learn more about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With your partner, discuss which sustainable development category each goal falls into and write the goal's number in the appropriate section below. If a goal seems to fall in two categories, you may either write it twice *or* select the category in which it fits best.



