

Madagascar Photo-Essay Guidelines

Content Background

Now that you have studied the Peace Corps stories on Madagascar's environment and agriculture, you have probably come to the conclusion that deforestation is impacting the lives of Madagascar's people, natural resources, and lemurs. Deforestation directly takes away the lemur's habitat. Indirectly, deforestation alters the rivers and streams that people depend upon for water. Streams that used to run freely are drying up or filling with sediment as the habitat is altered. Rivers are overflowing with red silt from eroding treeless hillsides during the wet season.

The only way to save the lemur's habitat is to drastically reduce the slash-and-burn method of clearing rain forests for cattle and crops. But how can you ask people to stop doing the very thing that provides them with food? Do any of the Peace Corps stories suggest ways that you could expand upon to create a permanent food source and income for the Malagasy people? How can you change the present situation in Madagascar by helping people use *and* preserve their natural resources (forests and water) in a way that benefits them and ultimately helps preserve the lemurs' habitat?

The Photo-Essay Project

To show that you have an understanding of the complexity of this issue, your research team will prepare a photo-essay using PowerPoint, HyperStudio, or other electronic presentation software. This essay will be like a slide show of images and information that you have collected and organized from the Peace Corps website and other links.

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Questions to Answer

The following guiding questions are categorized under the bigger, essential questions that you explored in class in relation to your own world. The guided questions are more specific to your photo-essay. Use the Essential Questions as lead-ins or transition pages in your presentation. Use the guiding questions to help you focus in on Madagascar's situation.

Essential Question #1: How do people affect and change the environment?

Guiding Questions to Explore:

- Why is Madagascar becoming deforested?
- What are the effects of this deforestation on rivers and streams?
- How is the deforestation impacting people?
- What do lemurs look like and why are they endangered?

Essential Question #2: How can we balance our need to use natural resources with preserving these resources?

Guiding Questions to Explore:

- What ideas do you have as substitutes for deforestation? (The Peace Corps site has pictures of at least three options).
- How can these solutions help both people and lemurs of Madagascar?
- What are some of the difficulties and complexities of carrying out these proposed solutions?

Essential Question #3: Why is it important for us to know how we impact our resources and environment?

Guiding Question to Explore:

- Why is it important for both us and the people of Madagascar to know how the country's resources are being impacted?

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Language Requirements

Divide the above questions among your research team according to expertise or interest. It is helpful to have two people work on two related questions so that you may share and discuss your findings. When you find images and information that address the questions you are researching, you should then save the images and develop first-person explanations to accompany them. Restating your findings in first person adds voice to your presentation and draws in the audience. Many of the Peace Corps pictures and explanations will help you. For example, you can use ideas from the stories on environment and agriculture to prepare first person accounts in which you describe your team's findings on deforestation in relation to lemurs, water, and soil.

Be sure to reference each presentation page with the author/photographer, organization, and URL of the site. Even though you are incorporating these images and parts of the Peace Corps Volunteer observations as your own from your Madagascar virtual visit, you must give credit to those who gathered the information. See the Reference Guidelines websites at the bottom of the Madagascar links page on how to reference websites.

Technical Requirements

Once you have recorded the question you are answering, the reference, and a caption, you should e-mail it (attaching the images) to the person or people in charge of formatting the information into electronic presentation software.

Keep the following tips in mind as you format your presentation:

- Pictures should be kept proportional.
- No more than two pictures per page.
- Text should be written in first person, proofread, and edited.
- Font size and color should be easy to see and read in relation to background.
- Text and pictures should flow from one page to the next.
- Information should be presented in a logical order.
- A title page with research team names should appear at the beginning.
- A reference page should appear at the end with a bibliography or sources used for each page of the presentation.

Be sure to reference your rubric frequently as you work on your presentation.