

# 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](http://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.

## What Is Global Scholars?

Global Scholars is an international digital exchange program connecting students ages 10 to 13 in cities around the world. Guided by their teachers, students participate in a project-based curriculum and engage with international peers in an e-classroom. The program supports the nine student learning outcomes developed by Global Cities, Inc., which together define global competency for K-12 students. These include global learning outcomes (appreciation for diversity, cultural understanding, global knowledge, and global engagement), and general learning outcomes that support global learning and growth across academic subjects (digital literacy, language communication, self-efficacy, academic engagement, and critical thinking).

Global Scholars is operated by **Global Cities, Inc.**, which provides the curriculum, access to the password-protected e-classroom, and year-long professional development. The program is conducted in English. **Schools** provide at least one computer or tablet with a reliable internet connection for every two students, two hours per week for program activities, and an enthusiastic educator to lead activities and participate in required professional development.

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