2020-21 Curriculum: Resourceful Cities

Through the Global Scholars curriculum and online communication with international peers, students learn how to solve a global problem. In 2020-21, students investigate the local and global impacts of consumption. With more people living in cities each year, urban populations consume an increasing amount of food, water, energy, and other resources. This increased demand depletes natural resources faster than Earth can renew them. Many products are designed for a single use, adding to waste disposal challenges. Students design local solutions that make production, delivery, and disposal systems more sustainable and improve the lives of people in cities worldwide.

There are no fees to participate. *For more information, visit 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, reply to their international peers, exchange perspectives, and learn online communication etiquette. They create videos to introduce their school, city, and what it means to be a Global Scholar.

Unit 2: Everyday Consumption
Students document their personal consumption habits and analyze how availability and culture affect their choices. They evaluate whether products are sustainably made, used, and disposed of in their communities. Students identify consumption solutions that meet the needs of their local culture and environment. They conduct a school audit to learn how people in their school consume resources and create a photojournal to share findings and recommend improvements.

Unit 3: Sustainable City Connections
Students examine the systems cities use to produce and deliver resources, such as transportation and electrical grids, and their impact on public health, ecosystems, and economy. They learn how urbanization creates opportunities for sustainable systems and research local initiatives to better manage production, consumption, and waste. Students design a map to connect community members to sustainable local systems and recommend new opportunities such as bike delivery systems.

Unit 4: Sharing Global Resources
Students analyze the impact of globalization on consumption, people, and the environment. They reflect on the benefits and challenges of global trade and how it influences production, delivery, and waste management systems. They learn what people can do to contribute to the sustainability of these systems and mitigate consequences such as climate change. Students conduct surveys to identify the most important consumption issues in their communities and recommend local solutions.

Unit 5: Community Action Project
Students design, implement, and document projects to promote responsible consumption in their cities. They may redesign products to limit or eliminate waste, build a school compost system, or create a makerspace to repair and repurpose commonly discarded items. They collaborate with peers in cities around the world as they create solutions with their classmates in their local communities.

What Is Global Scholars?

Global Scholars is a digital exchange program that connects 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 curriculum advances nine student learning outcomes developed by Global Cities, Inc., which are designed to prepare students to be globally-competent adults. These include four global learning outcomes (appreciation for diversity, cultural understanding, global knowledge, and global engagement), and five general learning outcomes that support growth across academic subjects (digital literacy, language communication, self-efficacy, academic engagement, and critical thinking).

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

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