

Name: _____ Period: _____

Human Footprint Worksheet

If we think of the earth as being 1 day old then we have only been around for a few _____. Humans do not impact only _____ percent of earth's surface meaning that we have a direct impact on an astonishing _____ percent of earth's surface. How many people live in the United States: _____. The video details an average human living in the United States and tracks their consumption of the following resources/items:

1. Diapers – 1 Baby

Babies spend their first _____ years in diapers. If we use disposable diapers we will use _____ diapers over that time period. It takes _____ a pint of crude oil to make 1 diaper. And it takes _____ pounds of plastic and _____ trees to make diapers for 1 baby over their diaper-wearing period. A 500 year supply of diapers would cover the entire state of _____.

If you use reusable cloth diapers (thought to be more environmental friendly) it will take _____ gallons of water to wash them for 1 baby's diaper-wearing period.

2. Milk

It takes _____ cows (more than human population of New Jersey) to feed humans in the United States (annually). Each human (in U.S.) consumes _____ pints of milk a week or _____ pints a month or _____ pints a year. We will each consume _____ pints of milk per person per lifetime.

But milk is only a tiny part of our diet. As a nation, we eat a total of _____ pounds of food everyday.

3. Meat – beef, pork, chickens

Each person on average (in U.S.) eats _____ tons of beef in a lifetime.
Each person on average (in U.S.) eats _____ tons of pork (pigs) in a lifetime.
Each person on average (in U.S.) eats _____ chickens (2.3 tons) in a lifetime.

4. Eggs

We eat 5 eggs a week or _____ in a month and _____ eggs a year. We eat _____ tons in a lifetime or _____ individual eggs.

5. Bread – wheat

America devotes an area the size of _____ just to wheat fields. We eat _____ loaves of bread a year, which is _____ (87,000 slices) loaves of bread in our lifetime. We also eat _____ hot dog rolls and _____ hamburger rolls in our lifetimes.

6. Fruit – bananas, oranges

Bananas travel _____ air miles to reach us. Each of us eats _____ in our lifetime. Also, we eat _____ oranges in our lifetime.

7. Trash – plastic, cans

We each produce _____ pounds (or about 15 tons) of trash in our lifetime. Not all is plastic, some includes soda cans (aluminum). Americans drink _____ cans (2,000 a second) of soda a day – wow is that a lot! Over a lifetime, a person drinks _____ soda cans.

8. Showers and cleaning products

An average person in the U.S. takes _____ showers in their lifetime. We use _____ toothbrushes, _____ tubes of toothpaste, _____ bars of soap, _____ bottles of shampoo, _____ sticks of deodorant, and _____ tubes of hair styling gel. The cosmetic industry uses over _____ different ingredients.

9. Water used

Excluding showers, we will use _____ gallons of water in our lifetime, which equals 2 Olympic swimming pools. That equals keeping the tap on continuously for 62 weeks; including showers, we use 1.8 million gallons of water which is like leaving it on for _____. We have more than _____ miles of sewer lines, enough to rap around the world _____ times.

10. Recycling

If we _____ the soda cans (43,371) we use in our lifetime, you would save enough energy to power a television for over _____ hours or well over _____ years.

11. Clothes – money spent

At any given time a man will have _____ pairs of jeans and about _____ tee-shirts. On average, each garment lasts about 3 years. A man spends \$ _____ on clothes over his lifetime. A women's wardrobe is even more extensive and _____, but the video doesn't give any facts/statistics on this.

12. Beer and wine

On average each U.S. person drinks _____ beers (12 ounces I assume) and _____ bottles of wine in their lifetime.

13. Housing

On average we move about _____ times in our lifetime. It takes _____ trees to make an average home. In a 2,000 square foot house we come across _____ square feet of lumber. Every year _____ houses are built each year. An average new homeowner spends nearly \$ _____ on furnishes and decorations (carpets, rugs, tables and chairs).

14. Home appliances

We use _____ washing machines, _____ refrigerators, _____ air conditioners, _____ microwaves, _____ TVs, and _____ computers in our lifetime.

15. Coal – carbon footprint

Over _____ our electricity comes from 1 of _____ coal-burning power plant stations. Coal is a _____ containing 40-90% carbon. When burned it releases _____, a greenhouse gas, which builds up and heats the atmosphere. The average American creates _____ tons of CO₂ emissions every year compared to a worldwide average of _____ tons. If we simply turned down our thermostats _____ degrees during the winter, we would each save _____ pounds released into the atmosphere every year.

16. Televisions

The average home has at least _____ TV sets and the average American watches _____ hours of TV every day which is over _____ over the course of one's lifetime sitting in front of the tube.

17. Cars

The U.S. has only _____ percent of the world's population but has _____ percent of the world's cars. We have adapted cities with freeways for our cars. The parts from a typical car come from raw material gathered where? _____

We each own an average of _____ cars in our lifetime (there are 200,000,000 cars in the U.S.). It is when the cars are _____ is when we really see their impact. Americans use _____ of the world's oil and it takes half of that to fuel our cars. We use an astonishing _____ barrels of oil everyday. By driving 11,000 miles per year on average we will drive _____ miles in our lifetime, enough to circle the world _____ times. That is _____ gallons of gasoline. Each car produces _____ of carbon emissions a year and each person produces _____ of carbon emissions in a lifetime, which is _____ times more than the average Frenchman and _____ times more than a person living in India.

18. Wildlife travel/habitat destruction

Studies show that _____ of the earth's land is directly influenced by man-kind. If every person in the world lived like we do in the U.S. we would need at least _____ planets to meet our demand for natural resources and to absorb our waste and pollution. At least _____ of forest in the U.S. gets destroyed every minute of every day (1 million per year). As many as _____ percent of threatened species live near us in metro/suburban areas.

By 2025, our expanding towns will turn a natural habitat the size of _____ into suburbia. Ultimately, over our lifetime we will lose more than _____ acres, more than the size of the (large) state of _____.

19. Old age – Doctor visits

On average we will see our physician or go to the hospital _____ times in our lifetime. We will have swallowed thousands of pills, _____ to be exact.

As you can see, each individual human, especially in the United States, has a staggering footprint, using many, many resources throughout our lifetime. Our average human lifetime in the U.S. is _____ years and _____ months and our total waste is each _____ tons.