



Mercy Education Educación de la Misericordia

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Lesson Plans on Care for Earth: Extractives

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- ✚ **Key theme:** Care of the Earth – with connections to Catholic Social Teaching and the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concern for Earth.
- ✚ The three lesson plans have been designed for hour-long classes.
- ✚ This curriculum is intended for secondary school students.

Overview:

Lesson 1: Introduction to Earth and *Laudato Si'*

Lesson 2: Extractivism as a Social and Earth Issue

Lesson 3: Bringing Knowledge to Action

This curriculum is based on [Awakening to a New Consciousness](#), a six-month theological reflection process in which over 200 Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Associates, companions and staff engaged in from 2021-2022. As part of the process, participants listened to the experiences of those most impacted by extractive industries; engaged in theological reflection and social analysis; and prepared for deep transformation. The process is part of the commitment of the Sisters of Mercy to “intensify our efforts to align our investments with our values and, especially now, to pursue education and action against practices of extractive industries that are destroying people, communities and Earth.” Mercy educators, we’d love to hear about how you are using this curriculum in the classroom. Please contact us at mercyedu@sistersofmercy.org.

Lesson 1: Introduction to Earth and *Laudato Si'*

Objective: To read and understand concepts within *Laudato Si'*.

Video: Earthrise by Amanda Gorman: https://kottke.org/21/01/earthrise-a-poem-about-climate-change-by-amanda-gorman?utm_source=nextdraft&utm_medium=email&fbclid=IwAR0d17HleI8RrT_ERxqLVgZtHS_LcTwGxdTywKpTy70BerVkkUjJ8cjwK5yA

Vocabulary:

- ✚ Interdependence of Creation – explore human’s need for creation and why/how creation depends on human beings.
- ✚ Integrity of Creation – explore different species and what they depend on and what depends on them.
- ✚ Materials economy – 5 stages – Extraction, Production, Distribution, Consumption, Disposal – explore how humans can change outcome of disposal
- ✚ Consumerism – planned and perceived obsolescence
- ✚ Anthropocentrism – Question: Are human beings the most important creation?

Option 1: [Reading of *Laudato Si'*](#): Paragraphs 20-52. Reading includes “311” (3 important ideas, 1 most important idea, 1 question)

Key point: Examples of destruction of the Earth

- ✚ Pollution
- ✚ Global warming – Climate Change
- ✚ Water
- ✚ Loss of Biodiversity
- ✚ Decline in Quality of Life
- ✚ Global Inequality

Option 2: Visual reading of *Laudato Si'*, a resource of the Sisters of Mercy:

- ✚ Pollution and Climate Change: <https://express.adobe.com/page/oln8mhdclrVkj/>
- ✚ The Issue of Water: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/nvyvbA08dWBCw/>
- ✚ Loss of Biodiversity: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/HYylhFmh452d/>
- ✚ Global Inequality: <https://express.adobe.com/page/6zlCKc0yfHv44/>

Lesson 2: Extractivism as a Social and Earth Issue

Objective: To understand the social and environmental impacts of extractivism.

Introduction:

Sisters of Mercy Process: Awakening to a New Consciousness

<https://sistersofmercy.org/homepage-awakening-new-consciousness-extractivism/>

Video: Colorado River - I am Red: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqYcC7jEe44>

Part 1: Deep listening in which we hear personal and communal experiences that bring the effects of extractivism to life

Watch and discuss videos:

1. On Defense of Life: <https://vimeo.com/162669257> (Preview and use one section)
2. Other videos: <https://www.sistersofmercy.org/homepage-awakening-new-consciousness-extractivism/further-engage/> (recommendation: Gina Lopez, Extractivism in Honduras, Bayou Bridge Pipeline)

Discussion:

What is one thing you believe is important?

What connections do you see with *Laudato Si'*?

What connections do you see with the Critical Concerns?

Part 2: Deep reflection on these experiences and on the root causes and effects of extractivism, grounded in our theology and our social analysis

Watch and discuss videos:

1. (Part 1) Extractivism in Honduras, The Struggle for Life: An Interview with Mercy Associate Nelly Del Cid: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6siRJyh5Y4>
2. (Part 2) Extractivism in Honduras, Empty Promises: An Interview with Mercy Associate Nelly Del Cid: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9P-nv4HZNI4>

Other video options are available at: <https://www.sistersofmercy.org/homepage-awakening-new-consciousness-extractivism/session-four-deep-reflecting-social-analysis/videos/>

Discussion:

What is one thing you believe is important?

What connections do you see with Laudato Si?

What connections do you see with the Critical Concerns?

Lesson 3: Bringing knowledge to action

Objective: To understand ways of stopping the destruction of the Earth and becoming stewards.

Introduction: Deep transformation: How can we act at this moment in time?

Connection with Laudato Si: Chapters 4,5,6 – <https://mercyedu.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Pope-Francis-Laudato-Si-Chapter-Summaries-and-Reflection-Questions.pdf>. Students work in groups to define important concepts.

Important concepts:

1. Stewardship
2. Solidarity
3. Ecological Conversion
4. Sustainable development
5. Integral ecology
6. Sustainable agriculture
7. Common Destination of Good

Sisters of Mercy Extractivism Case Studies: <https://www.sistersofmercy.org/homepage-awakening-new-consciousness-extractivism/session-five-deep-transformation/extractivism-case-studies/>

Group work and discussion:

- ▶ Read three of the case studies from the link above.
- ▶ Share what you feel is important in how they responded to the need.
- ▶ Which one/ones most resonate(s) with your group?
- ▶ Brainstorm actions you can take personally and through advocacy.

Full class discussion and wrap up.