

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Investigating the “Anthropocene”

Student Handout

Go to <http://arcg.is/1uGgg6X> and explore the “Welcome to the Anthropocene” story map. Note that for many of the maps and images on the left side of the screen, you can click, drag and zoom to explore the maps in more detail. Where available, map legends are at the top of the screen.

1. What is the Anthropocene and how did it get its name?
2. How are humans influencing the planet?
3. How much of the Earth’s land surface (outside of ice sheets) is managed by humans? Describe how humans have modified the Earth’s surface. Which areas (countries/continents) show the most “red”, which indicates a high level of human impact?
4. What percentage of the Earth’s land is used for agriculture? Name three regions that have high agricultural productivity.
5. What percent of the Earth’s forests have been lost? Name one county that appears to have the most significant deforestation by land area on the map.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

- How has biodiversity come under threat and how much of the world's land are protected?
- On the map of protected lands, find an area or areas near you that are protected and click on them (they are green or blue in color). Write what the names of the areas.
- For one of the protected areas near you – describe what makes the area unique (you may have to investigate this using the internet).
- It's not all bad! Humans have a lot of control over what happens next. Name at least two suggestions found in this story map for creating more sustainable cities.
- How is your own city striving for sustainability? Can you find any examples of how your city and/or state are getting involved in this movement? Try to find 4-5 examples online and describe them here.