

**Environmental Science: Local, Regional, and Global Impact**

**Readiness Challenge**

This is a level two course. It is intended for students who are interested in learning more about environmental effects on our planet and what they can do to protect our fragile ecosystem. Think this course is for you?

* Complete the Readiness Challenge.
* Discuss your answers and feelings with your teacher. Did you enjoy the questions? Did you feel challenged? Do you want to be in a five-hour/day learning laboratory on this topic?
* **Your teacher will include an assessment of your readiness based on this Challenge and classroom observations in the teacher recommendation.**
* Please do NOT send your answers to the Readiness Challenge to Virginia STEAM Academy. Discuss them with your teacher.

1. Name and describe the biome in which you live.
2. Wetlands are often called “the kidneys of the landscape.” What does this mean?
3. Describe how rain becomes acidic and what threats this acid rain has on the eastern highlands. Furthermore, what are some things we can do to combat this increase in acidity?
4. Briefly, what are the Chesapeake Bay Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act?
5. What do you think are some of the environmental issues that affect your neighborhood, county, state, country, and world?
6. What effect does Co2 have on our world’s coral reefs?
7. What is global climate change and how are different areas of the world impacted? Give examples of organism that are *positively* affected by climate change and *negatively* affected by climate change.
8. What is mountaintop removal mining? What are some alternative sources of energy?