

An Overview of Environmental History

Article: Jennie Price's "Remaking American Environmentalism: On the Banks of the L. A. River"

Class Discussion/Analytical Questions

- 1) Price identifies four waves of environmentalism. Both the third and fourth waves are defined by the relationship between environmentalism and market-based incentives. Why do you think market-based incentives so affect environmentalism? How can market-based incentives benefit the environmental movement? How can market-based incentives hinder the environmental movement?
- 2) Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger argue that environmentalists, in pushing for technical policy solutions, treat the environment as a separate entity. What are the pros and cons of treating environmentalism as a special interest?
- 3) Nordhaus and Shellenberger argue that environmentalists should push for ambitious, integrated, progressive politics that connect the environment to other political issues. How might proactive, integrative policies benefit the environmental cause? How could a proactive, integrative policy detract from the environmental cause?
- 4) Price claims that environmentalism is going mainstream, citing the growing eco-friendly trend that has found its way into most every aspect of society. Are these eco-trends good for the environmental movement? If you answered yes, how so? If you answered no, why not?

Activities

Environmental History Timeline

Price pinpoints five iconic moments in environmental history. Break the class into five groups, assigning each group a different moment. Inform group five that there is a typo in the text and Price calls the fifth iconic moment the sixth iconic moment. Explain that each group has three tasks to complete.

Tasks

- 1) Define your group's significant moment.
- 2) Evaluate how well Price links the Los Angeles River to your moment in environmental history.
- 3) Teach the class your group's moment, critiquing Price's integration of the Los Angeles River into that history.

Create an Icon for 21st Century Environmentalism

Break the class into small groups and ask each group to list five things that describe twenty-first-century environmentalism. After the class reaches a general consensus, ask the groups to come up with an icon that epitomizes their view of twenty-first-century environmentalism. Each group should write a short

essay explaining why their icon is a good choice. This can also be made into individual projects or assignments.