

THE SPRAWLING DANDORA LANDFILL



CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION'S

ONLINE
Classroom

Subjects:

Sustainability, sustainable development goals, global citizenship

Time:

60 - 90 minutes

Grades:

10-12

What to know before getting started:

The Dandora Landfill is a sprawling landfill site covering an area of about 121,400 square metres in Nairobi, Kenya. Every day, around 2,000 tonnes of waste is sent to this landfill. It is estimated that more than one million people live in the area immediately surrounding the landfill, some of whom earn a living by finding and selling plastic and electronic waste, which can be sold to recycling facilities. **Follow this activity to witness the Dandora Landfill in 360 degrees and to learn about how the issues surrounding this landfill relate to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.**

Materials you will need:

- An electronic device with internet access and sound
- The Dandora Landfill 360-degree video (accessible [here](#))
- A notebook and writing utensils
- A list of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (accessible [here](#))
- Optional: the Dandora Landfill 360-degree video can be viewed using a virtual reality headset or similar device (like Google cardboard) by downloading the Anthropocene VR app from the Google Play store or the iStore.

Activity time!

Read this first...

Virtual reality and 360-degree videos are designed to allow people to explore far-off locations, ideas, and themes. Plastics and pollution are markers of the Anthropocene, and the 360-degree video of the Dandora Landfill exemplifies why these issues are so pressing. The mountains of plastic seen in the video represent the growing human population and the difficulty of dealing with increasing amounts of plastic waste. However, watch closely and you will see that this landfill also presents an economic opportunity for local residents. Plentiful and easy to gather, plastic waste has become a resource in its own right, to be collected and sold as source material.

...then follow these instructions

Open the 360-degree video of the Dandora Landfill on your device. Watch the video while exploring the landfill in 3D. Use your mouse or the arrows on your keyboard to look around the landfill, including up and down and side to side.

Stop and think: What was your initial reaction to seeing this landfill? Why do you think other countries ship their waste to this landfill? Did you recognize any of the items? How are you connected to this landfill? Why do so many people try and make a living by sorting through and collecting different materials from this site? Are there any benefits associated with this landfill?

Now, it's time to think like a global citizen! To be a global citizen means to understand that we do not just belong to our smaller community, but that we are part of, contribute to, and are impacted by, the global community. We are connected to all other parts of the world and all areas of the world must work together to create a better global community. Visit the United Nations' [Sustainable Development Goals](#) website and read through the 17 SDGs adopted by the United Nations Member States in 2015.

Stop and think: How are these goals connected to one another? How do these goals have a connection to your life and your local community? What goals would connect to the life of someone in another country? How can you take action to contribute to the achievement of these goals?

Think about how travelling through the Dandora Landfill made you feel. Now think about the 17 SDGs and how they could relate to the landfill, the people who work at and live around the landfill, and the countries who contribute waste to the landfill. For example, how could work being done to achieve SDG 8: "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive



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employment and decent work for all” impact the landfill? Make a table that lists the SDGs, the connections you’ve made, and then what action could be taken on a personal, local, national, or global scale to attain these goals, not only in relation to the landfill, but in more general terms too.

Stop and think: What would be the impacts (negative and positive) of changing the way the Dandora Landfill operates? How does this landfill have a global connection? How do your actions impact someone across the globe?

Share your learning adventure with us!

What did you learn by completing this activity? Do you have any questions? Did you take any photos you would like to share with others? Tag [@CanGeoEdu](#) on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and let us know using the hashtag [#OnlineClassroom!](#)

Other ways to complete this activity:

- Choose any SDG and think of something that you can do to take action to help achieve this goal.
- Compare the items seen in the Recycling Gigapixel from Scarborough in Ontario, Canada, and the 360-degree video of the Dandora Landfill in Nairobi, Kenya.

Interesting extras:

- The Aga Khan Foundation of Canada has many related [educator resources](#).
- The artists behind the [The Anthropocene Project](#) also filmed two additional 360-degree videos—one of the Carrara marble quarries in Italy and one of an ivory burn in Kenya.
- The [Anthropocene Education Program](#) has many more resources and lessons linked directly to plastics and society.