

# BALANCING ACT

Imagine Earth is a ball sitting on a stool with three legs. One leg is the environment, one is the economy, and one is people. If the three legs are not balanced, the 'Earth' will roll off the stool, and some living things may not survive the fall.

In earlier lessons, we discussed the five basic things we need to survive. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



A stool will remain balanced as long as the three legs are stable. We could say it is sustainable. Life on Earth can be sustainable, too. But we must do things today that will help living things in the future meet their basic needs. What can we and our families do to help life on our planet be sustainable?

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As we meet these needs, how do we affect the environment? Do we have to spend money to meet our needs? What do we spend it on? Are jobs created? Are we doing anything today that will make it difficult for future generations to meet their needs? What can our communities do? Give a few examples.

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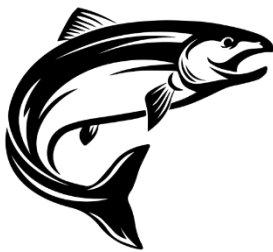
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**THINK ABOUT THIS!** Is there a difference between what we want and what we need? Do some people get what they want while others can't get what they need?

