

# THIS LITTLE PIGGY...



It's amazing what you can learn from a children's song.



## *This Little Piggy went to market...*

*We are a world full of consumers. As Americans we probably never stop to realize how truly fortunate we are. We can walk into a supermarket where we have more choices and more selections of high quality meats, poultry, fruits, and vegetables than the majority of other countries in the world. The ecological footprint required to sustain this lifestyle in the U.S. is approximately 10 hectares (24.7 acres) per person. This is the average crop, grazing, forestry land, housing and sea area needed per American to sustain our current demand. The average ecological footprint for the world is 2.85 hectares. Those living in developed countries use the vast majority of the world's resources. Figures vary, but the numbers being discussed are a 20/80 ration. Simply put; 20% of the current world population uses 80% of the global resources produced.*

## *This Little Piggy stayed home...*

*Much is being done to reduce our energy and fuel consumption world wide on an industrial level. Though it is a start, overall consumption has decreased little. The greatest impact we can have to reduce energy use is at the home, government, and community level. Consider if the remaining 80% of the world increased their energy consumption levels to those of ours. China alone would consume 30% more oil per year than the world's current annual production levels.*

## *This Little Piggy had roast beef...*

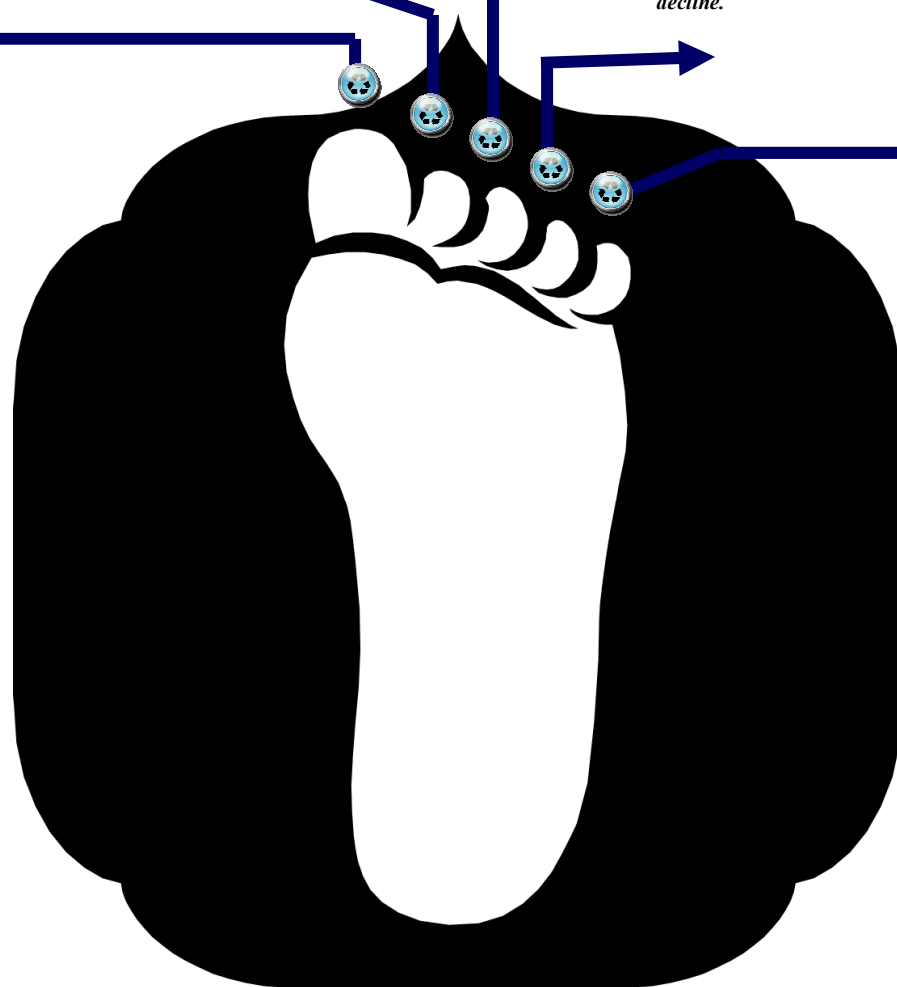
*As countries, once predominately agricultural, develop into industrial and technological nations, their population grows richer. Their growing middle-class becomes consumers with an increased appetite for those things prized by developed countries; namely beef. As the global demand for beef increases, we must also increase grain production to accommodate it. It takes approximately 6 kilograms of grain to produce 1 kilogram of beef.*

## *This Little Piggy had none...*

*No one can accurately predict how our current environmental problems will impact the future, but consider this; Over 50% of grain traded around the world is used for animal feed or bio-fuels. Nearly 1 billion people are going hungry. 5000 people a day die due to dirty drinking water. 1 billion people have no access to safe drinking water. 40% of arable land has suffered long-term damage. Every year, 13 million hectares (over 32 million acres) of forest land disappears. One mammal in 4, one bird in 8, one amphibian in 3 are threatened with extinction. Species are dying out at a rate 1000 times faster than the natural rate. Three quarters of fishing grounds are exhausted, depleted or in dangerous decline.*

## *This Little Piggy went wee wee wee wee all the way home.*

*We are beginning to see the damage we have done to our planet as beaches around the world are being closed to swimming due to high bacteria levels in the water. E-coli levels must be monitored and posted on a daily basis to keep the public safe from the millions of tons of raw sewage we dump into our oceans annually. Increased reports of bio-medical waste washing up onto our country's beaches, devastating oil spills killing sea birds and sea life, the increased amounts of chemical fertilizers and pesticides leaching from depleted soils into our rivers, streams and ground water. We are contaminating and depleting our natural resources at an alarming rate turning our beautiful home into a toxic cesspool.*



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Applying Literary Genres

Sources: [www.greenbuilding.co.za](http://www.greenbuilding.co.za)—World Consumption Levels. 1997. Web. 15 Apr 2011.  
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