

Name: _____

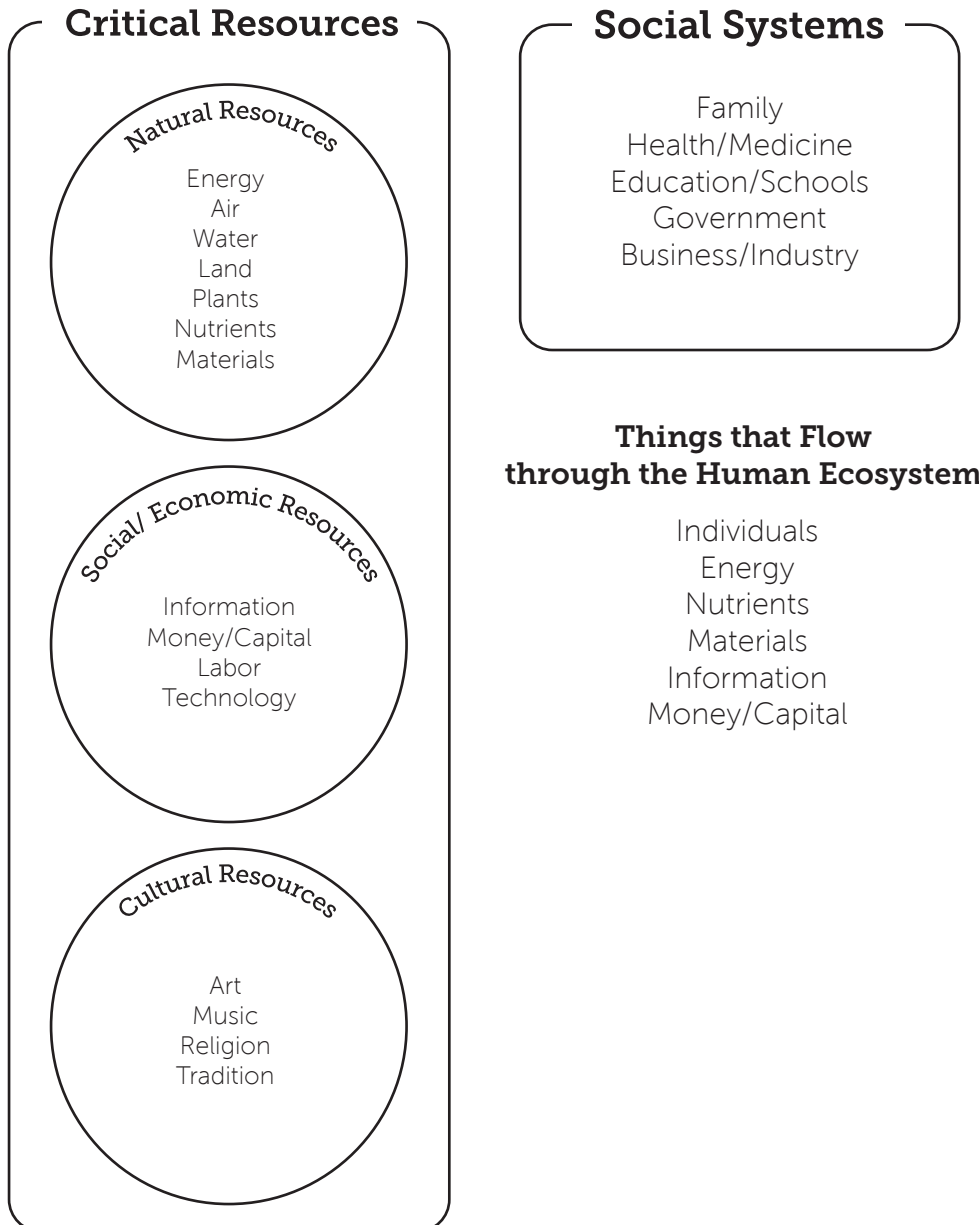
Box-City/ Urban Ecosystem Pre-Visit Activities

Grades 6-12

Human Ecosystem Framework

Urban designers have adopted many of the ideas and tools that scientists have created to study ecosystems. One tool is to create diagrams of resources and how they interact with different human systems in a community.

The Human Ecosystem



Questions

What are some critical resources in a human ecosystem?

What are some of the social systems that operate in a community?

What are some of the things that flow through a community?

How is a human ecosystem similar to other ecosystems?

Case Study: West End District, New Iberia, LA

As part of your visit to the museum, you will design a building lot for one block of Hopkins Street in the West End neighborhood of New Iberia. The community organization Envision da Berry is working to improve the neighborhood. Your design ideas will be collected or documented by the organization to help in their efforts to revitalize the community.

Challenge: Design a scale model of structures and green spaces to enhance the neighborhood and attract new residents to the community.

Neighborhood History and Statistics:

The West End, a once thriving commercial and cultural center with a majority African American population, has witnessed forty years of economic and social decline. According to the 2010 US census, the West End has disproportionately lower high school graduation rates, higher unemployment, a declining median income, and lower median home values when compared with the rest of New Iberia.

Since 2000, the population of New Iberia has declined by 6.1%, while Iberia Parish has not grown at all. Nationwide, the population has increased by 9.4%. America is growing, but New Iberia is shrinking. For years people have left Iberia Parish following high school graduation to pursue educational or higher-paying career opportunities elsewhere. This "brain drain," a nationwide phenomenon of young people leaving rural areas for cities, has resulted in an overall decline in the physical, mental, and economic health of Iberia Parish residents. At the same time, the Gulf of Mexico swallows untold numbers of acres of Louisiana coastline each year, presenting both challenges and opportunities for future sustainable development.

Identify Actors and Assets in the Community:

Watch the video interviews with West End residents. List the assets that the residents bring to the community and their needs or wants for the community.

People	Assets	Wants/ Needs
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____