

**UNDERSTANDING  
READING  
STRATEGIES**

► Making Connections

**Talk About It**

How can one person make a positive difference in the world?

# A GLOBAL CITIZEN IS...

Nonfiction Article by  
Susan Watson and  
Iris Teichmann

**Making Connections**



Making text-to-self connections can help you draw conclusions and form opinions. As you read this list, think about whether you match any of the criteria for a global citizen. In your opinion, are you a good global citizen? Support your response.

A global citizen is a person who

- has rights and responsibilities
- acts in a caring way based on knowledge and understanding
- relates to others within their family, friendship groups, community, and country
- develops personal values and commitments
- develops a sense of his or her own role in the world

A study of global citizenship will help you understand how people affect the quality of global environments and the well-being of others. Active global citizens do not just sit back and wait for others to do something. They turn their ideas into action. Action can take many forms:

- volunteering by giving time, help, and ideas freely
- talking to your friends
- thinking deeply
- learning more
- taking part in community events

We can all care for each other and our environment.

**Making Connections**



Making text-to-self connections can help you visualize. What personal connection do you make to this list? How does that connection help you visualize a good global citizen?

# Global Issues for Global Citizens

## What Is a Global Issue?

A global issue is a problem or question that many of the world's citizens are concerned about. There are many global issues facing the world today in the natural and human environments.

### Making Connections



Making text-to-text connections can help you make predictions. When you look at this photo of dead fish, you might make a connection to other photos you have seen. What prediction about this text do you make based on that connection?



### Global Environments

Our surroundings are where people, plants, animals, and other creatures live. Global citizens protect what we have and limit the amount of damage to our environments.

### Human Rights

All humans have the right to a fair, safe, and comfortable life. Global citizens try to understand what human rights are so that they can protect them.

### Cultural Differences

There are many different societies and cultures in the world. Global citizens learn to live with one another by showing respect for these differences.

### Making Connections



Making text-to-world connections can help you evaluate the text. How does the information on human rights connect with what you know about how some people around the world struggle for basic human rights? How does that connection help you evaluate this author's point of view?



## Quality of Life

Many people in the world do not have the same opportunities as others because of poverty. Global citizens try to improve the quality of these people's lives.



## Sustainable Living

All people use the world's natural resources. Global citizens develop everyday living practices that help limit the effect that people have on Earth.



## Making Connections

Making text-to-text or text-to-world connections can help you make inferences. What connections can you make to help you understand the type of everyday practices implied in this section?

## World Heritage

Global citizens want to protect important natural and human-built features so that they last for future generations.



L'Anse aux Meadows is a World Heritage Site located on the northernmost tip of the island of Newfoundland, in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. At this site, in 1960, archaeologists discovered the remains of a Norse village.

## What Is Globalization?

Globalization is about living in a global community. As a result of technological advances in communications, from the phone to the Internet, countries are increasingly connected to each other politically, economically, culturally, and environmentally.

### A Focus of Debate

Many people are concerned about globalization—in particular the effects of international trade. This is when countries buy and sell goods and services from and to other countries. With the money countries make from exporting goods, they can expand their industries and wealth and improve the standard of living of their own people. At the same time, countries can use the money they make from exports to import goods and services that they need.

Tigers are killed for products that can only be sold illegally. Tiger bones are valued as medicine and their skins are used as trophies.



## Global Trade

After World War II, governments saw global trade as a key factor in helping countries recover from the economic ruin of the war. They set up institutions to encourage international trade, and slowly new wealth was generated, particularly in the West.

But modern trade became truly global in the 1980s, when advances in air travel and communications made shipping very cheap. To save money, companies started to move businesses and production processes to other countries where labour or materials were cheap. For example, your running shoes were probably made in China or India, but sold by a company that has its headquarters in North America.

### The Move to Free Trade

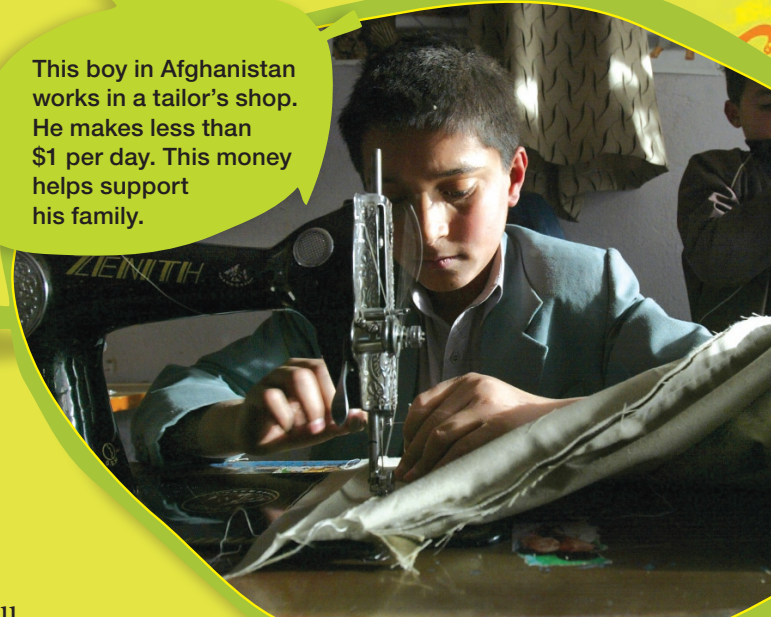
One of the driving factors behind the move to global trade is countries trading as if there were no national borders. A few decades ago, most countries imposed fees, or tariffs, on imported goods, making them expensive and less of a threat to locally produced goods. But today, every country is encouraged to drop these tariffs. This is known as *free trade*. Global free trade allows countries to specialize in certain products and services. As a result, countries can now import products—at lower prices than in the past—from all over the world.



#### Making Connections

Good readers extend their understanding of a text by making connections. What connections help you understand this section on global trade? What do you already know about World War II and the topic of global trade?

This boy in Afghanistan works in a tailor's shop. He makes less than \$1 per day. This money helps support his family.



#### Making Connections

Making text-to-world connections can help you draw conclusions. When you look at this photo, you might make a connection to what you know about child labour. What conclusion about free trade do you draw after making this connection?

### Reflecting

**Making Connections:** What issue (for example, human rights, sustainable living, global trade, or free trade) in this selection did you make the strongest connection to? Why?

**Metacognition:** Different readers rely more heavily on some types of connections to help them understand a specific text. Which type of connections were most helpful to you while reading this article?

**Media Literacy:** Of all the issues in this selection, which one have you heard about most often in the news? What sort of viewpoint is most often connected with that issue?