

Bringing Australia to Your Classroom
International Center • Texas A&M University

Issues in Common¹

Review this list of contemporary issues and check the boxes on the left if you think they are issues in Texas, the United States, and/or Australia.

Issue?			Contemporary Issues
TX	US	AU	
			Watershed management
			Economic change (structural change, downsizing, part time labor, increases in hours worked, new technologies)
			Climate change
			Coastal management (preventing erosion, minimizing storm damage, balancing land use and development with recreation)
			Decline of rural communities
			Deforestation(old growth versus reforestation, changing biodiversity)
			Drought
			Economic and cultural integration (globalization, immigration, cultural convergence)
			Endangered species
			Environmental management
			Human rights
			Impacts of tourism
			Indigenous people, nations, and rights
			Introduced species (non-native species of plants and animals)
			Land degradation (any change in the land that reduces its existing or potential productivity—wind & water erosion, dry land salinity, loss of native vegetation, overgrazing, soil acidity)
			Migration (within state, nation; international)
			Multiculturalism(society made up of a number of different cultures and ethnic groups)
			Natural hazards (natural extreme events such as hurricanes, blizzards, and droughts)
			Pollution
			Population growth
			Spatial inequality (distinct geographical divisions between poor and affluent populations)
			Sustainable development (meeting the basic needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs)
			Technological change
			Transnational corporations (large companies that operate across many countries but with headquarters in a developed, industrialized nation)
			Toxic waste disposal
			Unemployment
			Urban decay and renewal
			Urban infrastructure (providing adequate transportation, sewage, and other services to support urban life)
			Urban sprawl

¹ Adapted from materials contained in Kleeman, Lane, and Butler. 1999. *A Geography of Australian Environments and Communities*. Sydney: Heinemann.