

Environmental ethics through the big ecological lens

LESSON PLAN 2 PRESENTATION

YAQREEN™
INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC RESEARCH



Major Quranic themes

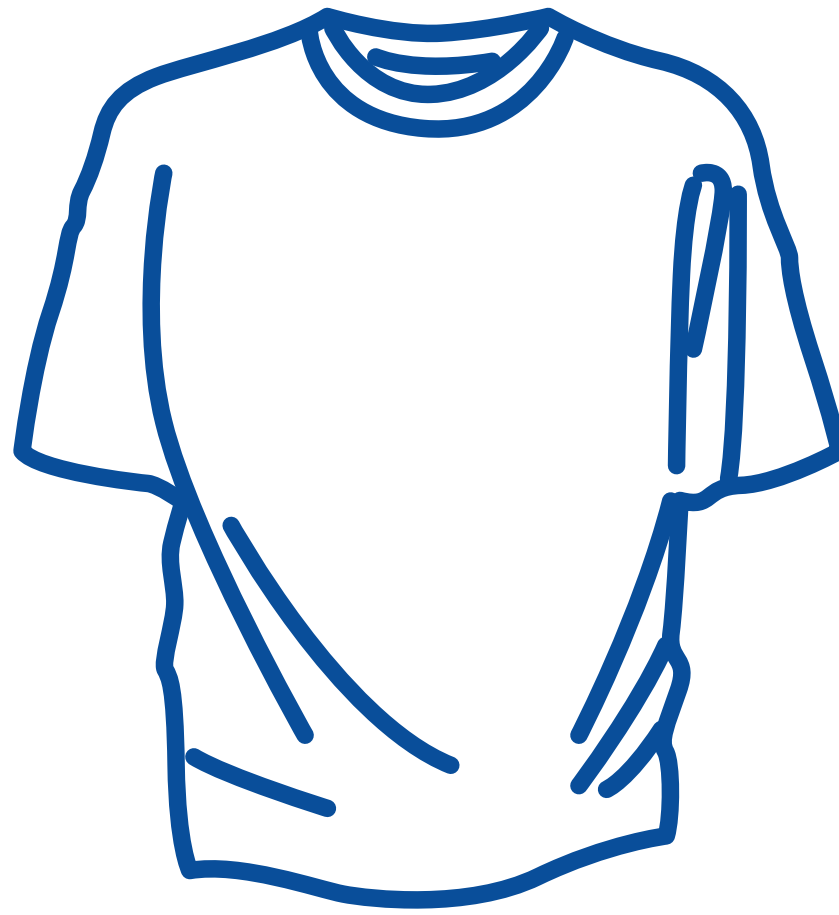
What are three ways in which the Quran speaks about the environment?



- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

“And when it is said to them,
‘Do not cause corruption on earth,’ they say,
‘Certainly, we are not but reformers.’” [2:11]

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُصْلِحُونَ



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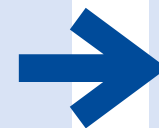
Human activity

The earth is neither too large nor humans too small for our activity to impact the environment. We're capable of both maintaining the balance and corrupting it.



Tafsir

Imam at-Tabari mentions the opinion of the Companion Salman al-Farisi that the prohibition in the verse above is addressing a people who have not yet come.



Anthropocene

The era of geological time during which human activity is considered to be the dominant influence on the environment, climate, and ecology of the earth.





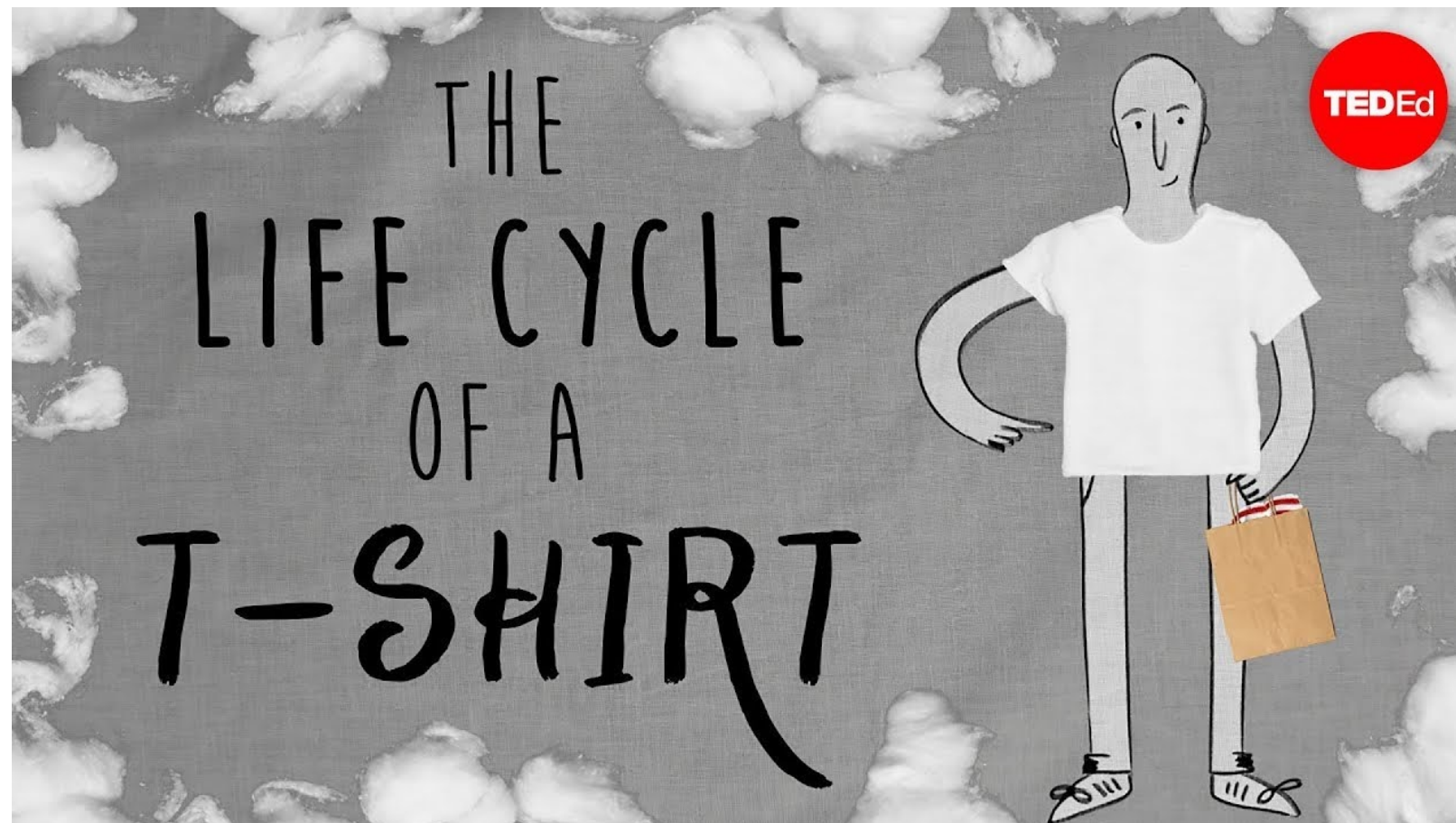
The big actors and factors behind the scenes

Capitalist global economic system: based on consumerism and maximizing profits

Major governments: International and domestic policies and actions including war, diplomacy, and legislation developed by politicians with political and economic interests

Large and powerful corporations: exploit natural resources and provide goods and services to drive consumerism

The lifecycle of a t-shirt



- 1 Discuss your thoughts on the video.
- 2 Identify the **big actors and factors** mentioned in this video and explain the specific **macro** ways in which they impact the environment.



Mounting textile waste

Break-out activity

THE STORY OF



THE STORY OF



1 Choose a video with your group:

“The Story of Electronics”

or

“The Story of Bottled Water.”

2 Identify the **big actors and factors** mentioned in this video and explain the specific **macro** ways in which they impact the environment.

Let's discuss

THE STORY OF



THE STORY OF



- 1 Share your group's choice
- 2 Share the following:
 - How do you feel after watching the video?
 - Revisit your notes: what two pieces of information from the video do you find to be most insightful?

Fossil fuel industry and toxic waste

Germany | Toxic acid drainage from coal mines spill into nearby streams of water, polluting drinking water supplies and damaging vital human organs and the nervous system.



Fossil fuel industry & toxic waste



Exploitation of natural resources for profit

Photo above: The image is evidence of the harm and destruction plastic can cause on Earth. It is one example of plastic waste washing up on the shores of bodies of water around the world. Large bottle water corporations have responsibility in the large-scale environmental damage.



Photo below: Pollution is a recurring problem that is becoming more evident in recent times. This image shows an example of trash washing up on shores.



Factories, such as the one depicted above, depend on fossil fuel energy and are used by governments and large corporations worldwide. Forests are cut down to make way for industrial development. Consequently, factories such as these can produce cancer-causing compounds in the air, lakes, and water streams nearby.



Mountaintop mining (MTM) for coal in Parys Mountain, UK:

Mountaintop Mining is a process in which the coal industry cuts off the peaks of mountains to access the minerals below. MTM damages the environment in many ways, beginning first with its pollution of freshwater. Water coming downstream from a mined mountain has significantly higher levels of heavy metal toxins, damaging aquatic species and their habitats and replacing fresh water with black, sludge-filled lakes. Parys Mountain (pictured above) was once heavily mined for copper. This mining has present-day consequences such as a high-level of soil contamination and high chemical content in waters nearby.



Why is it important to understand the role of these actors and factors in the corruption of the environment?