

MIGRATION + ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Synopsis

This text set looks at environmental injustices in communities of color or working class neighborhoods. However, social injustices are not meant to just tear us down, because they can also create social action and empower residents to advocate for themselves. Therefore, aside from focusing purely on the environmental toxins and devastation, it is also important to address the activism that arises in communities when they are harmed.

Text Set at a Glance

EQ: How does my family's migration shape where I live? How does my environment affect my community?

Other Questions: To what extent is my community toxic? What are ways to mitigate the toxicity of my community? What are the causes of the environmental risk factors in my neighborhood?

Objective: To look at environmental risk factors that our students/communities are exposed to due to their migrational journey, location, and environmental exploitation/racism.

Purpose: Provide environmental justice books that focus on BIPOC people's herstories and journeys.

Important things to note:

- Although I predominantly focus on particular regions that are important to me for various reasons; I gathered these sources so educators can use this information in their classes as a starting point.
- The purpose of this text set is to primarily focus on migration and environmental injustices/discrimination in our communities.
- I encourage teachers to continue to research their particular community and to intentionally allow opportunities for their students to explore their own communities.
- **Ask questions:**
 - Why is this facility (or facilities) here?
 - To what extent, are they polluting my community?
 - What health risks are affiliated with these pollutants?
 - Who's benefiting from this facility?
 - Who is at greatest risk?

Annotated Bibliography

"Bankruptcy Settlement Allows Exide to Abandon Battery Recycling Plant in Vernon, Leaves State with C."

YouTube, 16 Oct. 2020,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqSiB45h0Cg&pp=ygVn4oCcQmFua3J1cHRjeSBTZXR0bGVtZW50IEFsbG93cyBFeGikZSBubyBBYmFuZG9uIEJhdHRlcnkUjVjeWNsaW5nIFBsYW50IEluIFZlcm5vbiwgTG9VhdmVzIFN0YXRl4oCm4oCdIA%3D%3D.

A news report detailing how "Exide" (the battery smelter) was able to file for bankruptcy. This leaves the community in a challenging position with the ramifications of the facility's toxic pollutants in their community.

"Cal Enviro Screener." *Experience*,

experience.arcgis.com/experience/11d2f52282a54ceebcac7428e6184203/page/CalEnviroScreen-4_0/. Accessed 18 July 2023.

This platform is used to measure a community's level of exposure to pollutants in California. You can enter your zipcode and find your community risk level.

“Childish Gambino - Feels like Summer.” *YouTube*, 1 Sept. 2018,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1B9Fk_Sgl0&pp=ygUiY2hpbGRpc2ggZ2FtYmlubyBmZWVscYBsaWtlIHN1bW1lcg%3D%3D.

A song about climate change by Childish Gambino.

“Cleanup Nowhere near Finished at Exide Battery-Recycling Facility.” *YouTube*, 12 Feb. 2016,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=slvvAzBQjBA&t=5s&pp=ygVSS0NBTCBOZXdzlOKAnENsZWFudXAgTm93aGVyZSBOZWYlEZpbmlzaGVkIGF0IEV4aWRlIEJhdHRlcnktUmVjeWNsaW5nIEZhY2lsaXR54oCdIA%3D%3D.

After Exide was shut down, the state of California and its regulatory agencies were responsible for overseeing the clean up. However, this has not been an easy process. There is still a lot of work to be done.

“Do You Live near the Old Exide Lead-Acid Battery Smelter? Check Your Property’s Cleanup Status.” *Los Angeles Times*, 10 Feb. 2023,
www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-02-10/exide-lead-soil-cleanup-check-your-property-status.

There’s a way to see the progress of your property’s clean up status. This is vital, because there are still high levels of lead on properties that have had “soil remediation.” This is alarming, because this means that those families and their children are still being exposed to the negative health risks that are associated with lead.

“Don’t Go near the Water by the Beach Boys Lyric Video.” *YouTube*, 15 Apr. 2018,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxBg1uCch54&pp=ygUjYmVhc3RpZSBib3lzlGRvbnQgZ28gbmVhciB0aGUgd2F0ZXI%3D.

A song about water pollution and how we should be cautious.

“Exide Allowed to Abandon Vernon Battery Recycling Plant, Leaving Taxpayers to Foot Cleanup Bill.” *ABC7 Los Angeles*, 20 Oct. 2020, abc7.com/exide-battery-plant-in-vernon-bankruptcy-doj/7167011/.

Exide was absolved of its responsibility in the clean up since it filed for “bankruptcy,” meaning California is responsible for the remediation.

“Former Exide Battery Recycling Facility, Vernon, California | US EPA.” *EPA*,
www.epa.gov/ca/former-exide-battery-recycling-facility-vernon-california. Accessed 18 July 2023.

A text about Exide (the lead recycling facility) that existed for many generations in Vernon and the issues it created. This was published by the EPA.

Greenspon, Chris. *Cyclists Arrive at a Stop on Fifth Ave to Hear an Activist Speak on a Toxic Tour in Avocado Heights*.

An action that was organized by Active SGV in collaboration with Avocado Heights Vaquerxs as a form of community engagement and awareness regarding the toxic battery smelter, Quemetco. This is an article by Chris Greenspon.

Jahren, Hope, and Hope Jahren. *The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here*. Delacorte Press, 2021.

A book about Climate Change.

King, Loll, and Adelina Lirius. *Old Enough to Save the Planet: Be Inspired by Real-Life Children Taking Action against Climate Change*. Magic Cat Publishing, 2020.

A book about activists taking a role to address environmental issues in our world.

“Lead Poisoning from L.A. Battery Recycling Plant - Studio SoCal.” *YouTube*, 2 Mar. 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQM72MgDoCM&pp=ygVPIFBCUyBTb0NhbCDigJxMZWFkIFBvaXNvbmluZyBmcm9tIExBIEJhdHRlcnkgUmVjeWNsaW5nIFBsYW504oCTIFN0dWRpbyBTb0NhbOKAnQ%3D%3D.

The effects of Exide (the lead battery facility) that was eventually shut down. However, this video addresses the harmful effects of lead.

Lindstrom, Carole, and Michaela Goade. *We Are Water Protectors*. Findaway World, LLC, 2023.

A book about advocacy specifically from the point of view of a young Indigenous girl and her work and resiliency against the harmful Dakota Access Pipeline.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “Protect Your Health: Living near Quemetco.” *Quemetco Contamination | Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Environmental Health*, www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/quemetco/. Accessed 18 July 2023.

A text written by the LA County Department of Public Health about living near Quemetco and how one can “protect” itself.

Martin, Erika, and Christina Pascucci. “Lead Found in Children in Communities near Former Exide Battery Plant in Vernon: USC Study.” *KTLA*, 7 May 2019, ktla.com/news/local-news/lead-found-in-children-in-communities-near-former-exide-battery-plant-in-vernon-usc-study/.

A news report about how lead was found in children who resided near Exide.”

Metcalf, Lindsay H., et al. *No World Too Big: Young People Fighting Global Climate Change*. Charlesbridge Publishing, 2023.

A text about activists who fought climate change.

Paul, Baptiste, et al. *I Am Farmer: Growing an Environmental Movement in Cameroon*. Findaway World, LLC, 2020.

A book about a farmer who grew up in a community in the country of Cameroon and his relationship and experiences with the environmental movement.

Quemetco Protestors Mourning Environmental Destruction.

A photograph from a protest in retaliation of Quemetco.

Rohmer, Harriet, and Julie McLaughlin. *Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet*. Scholastic, 2009.

A book about heroes/activists who advocate for the environment.

Ruiz-Camacho , Daniel. *Annual Easter/Pascua Cabalgata/Political Outreach Event as Well in 2022*. Avocado Heights, 2022.

A photograph taken at a political/cultural event to raise awareness and increase community engagement in regards to Quemetco.

Scauzillo, Steve. "Hacienda Heights Community Meeting to Focus on Controversial Quemetco Settlement." *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, 7 Feb. 2023, www.sgvtribune.com/2023/02/06/hacienda-heights-community-meeting-to-focus-on-controversial-quemetco-settlement/.

An article about a contentious town hall meeting held by a government regulatory agency called DTSC and the settlement Quemetco had to pay for their violations. Can you put a price on people's health? The residents were critical and outspoken about their distrust and lack of faith in the system and Quemetco's toxic emissions.

Scauzillo, Steve. "Quemetco Battery Recycler in City of Industry to Pay \$2.3m Fine, Fix Problems." *Daily News*, 15 Dec. 2022, www.dailynews.com/2022/12/14/quemetco-battery-recycler-in-city-of-industry-to-pay-2-3m-fine-fix-problems/.

An article about the fee Quemetco had to pay for its violations. The money was given to two nonprofits. However, it was not invested back into the community. There was a lack of trust and communication with this process.

"SCQAMD Meeting." 7 Apr. 2023.

A testimony from a local resident regarding Quemetco at a government regulatory agency meeting, the "South Coast Quality Air Management District."

SINGH, RINA. *Forest Keeper: The True Story of Jadav Payeng*. NORTH-SOUTH BOOKS, 2023.

A true story about environmental destruction but also the change we can take to combat it.

"Stand up / Stand N Rock #NoDAPL (Official Video)." *YouTube*, 4 Dec. 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Onyk7guvHK8&pp=ygUVc3RhbmQgdXAv3RhbmQgbiByb2Nr.

A song about the DAKota Access Pipeline.

Talamantes, Daniel. "Kinship and Cultural Resistance to Environmental Racism in Avocado Heights, California ." *Boom California*, 14 Feb. 2023, boomcalifornia.org/2023/01/24/kinship-and-cultural-resistance-to-environmental-racism-in-avocado-heights-california/.

An article about cultural resistance, community organizing in response to environmental racism in a small community.

“What Is Environmental Justice.” *Newsela*,
newsela.com/view/ck9noohqv053p0iqj82ef6gln/?levelId=ck7ecwc4t0r0p14p7sssuws1d.
Accessed 18 July 2023.

An article for students about environmental justice.

“A Small Town Is Taking on the State’s Landfill.” *Newsela*,
newsela.com/view/ck9noomn207z50iqjg42ttj96/?levelId=ck7ecxpm915n514p7yhtoq1w5.
Accessed 18 July 2023.

A small town that confronts an environmental issue, its landfill.