

# CLIMATE CHANGE COLLECTION SCORECARD

Date: 4/20/05

Reviewer: Kirsten Butcher

Name of resource: Nationmaster.com

Sponsoring Organization: Nationmaster.com

URL: <http://www.nationmaster.com/index.php>

Site Homepage: <http://www.nationmaster.com/index.php>

RESOURCE WITHIN A SITE? Y / **N**

FOUND THROUGH DLESE? Y / **N**

IF SO, WHICH COLLECTIONS?

RECOMMENDATION YES **YES WITH RESERVATIONS** NO

STARS 1 2 **3** **4** 5 (LAME TO STELLAR)

NARRATIVE (USE OTHER SIDE IF NEEDED)

Overall, this is a useful site in which students can explore statistical information on a variety of topics organized by nations. Environmental data is included (e.g., CO2 emissions, CO2 pollution) but educators will need to support students in building their understanding of different data types (e.g., what is an “ecological footprint”) so that they can complete meaningful comparisons and create meaningful graphs. Some educators may find the available environmental statistics to be limited – information like temperature and rainfall is not included. Educators will want to become familiar with the data types and the options for exploration before turning their students loose on the site – the options can be dizzying and some students may have trouble developing useful representations. Some functions are not available without a subscription – the cost is low for a single user (\$10-50 depending upon length of subscription) but is higher for multiple users (\$50 for 30 users/6 months, \$790 for 1000 users/12 months).

## INTENDED USE

☒ REFERENCE

☒ COMPUTER ACTIVITY

☐ NON-COMPUTER ACTIVITY

☐ EDUCATOR, LEARNER OR BOTH (CIRCLE) IF FOR LEARNER, EVIDENCE ITS BEEN TESTED? Y / N  
BEGINNER OR ADVANCED (CIRCLE)

Easily Printed? Y / **N**

## BUGS & TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES (PROBLEMATIC TO ROBUST)

1 2 3 **4**

COMMENTS – No problems were encountered. However, I couldn't access some options because I wasn't a “supporter” of the site, which requires a nominal fee.

## SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY- FACTUAL ERRORS/OMISSIONS (NATIONAL ENQUIRER TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC)

1 2 3 **4**

EVIDENCE IT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY? **Y** / N

COMMENTS

This site provides factual, statistical information on a variety of topics for different countries around the world.

## PEDAGOGICAL INFORMATION

☐ REFERENCE ONLY

☐ TEACHER GUIDE

☐ MATERIALS LIST

☐ ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

☐ TIMEFRAME PROVIDED

☐ STANDARDS ALIGNMENT INDICATED

## PROMOTES STUDENT LEARNING (WEAK TO STRONG)

1 2 **3** **4**

COMMENTS – There is good information contained in this site. Educators may need to guide students in identifying the most meaningful analyses, in making sense of the visual displays and data, and in drawing conclusions from the presented data. However, this could be a useful site for exploration in a classroom setting due to the amount of flexibility in finding data and creating representations.

## APPROPRIATE/EFFECTIVE MULTIMEDIA DESIGN (WEAK TO STRONG)

1 2 **3** 4

COMMENTS – The site favors bar graphs which may not always be the best visual tool for representing the relationships of interest. However, ample graphs do provide a nice visual summary of data for learners.

**VISUAL APPEAL (WEAK TO STRONG)**

1 2 **3** 4

COMMENTS – The heavy use of graphs and ordered lists makes the retrieved data relatively easy to understand (provided that the learner understands WHAT s/he is graphing and what it means).

**TEACHING TIPS: ANNOTATION DESCRIBING HOW SITE COULD BE USED OR ADAPTED FOR CLASSROOM**

Educators will want to become quite familiar with the site before turning their students loose here. They also will need to provide some background knowledge about what the statistical data means (e.g., what is an “ecological footprint”). Educators likely will want to use the site to encourage student exploration of statistical information related to lesson plans – e.g., Who are the largest CO<sub>2</sub> producers? Does this rating change when CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are considered per capita?).

**RECOMMENDATION: ANNOTATION DESCRIBING HOW THE DEVELOPER COULD IMPROVE THE SITE.**

Provide more options for breaking down data (e.g., different time scales) and provide more science related data (e.g., temperature, rainfall, etc.).

Revised 12/3/04