

# Ecological Footprints

Your **ecological footprint** is the amount of Earth's productive land area needed to sustain you. It includes the farms needed to grow your food and the house you live in, the resources you use and the waste you throw away. It also includes your share of the roads you drive on and the factories that make the things you use.

Calculating your ecological footprint is very complicated, because many of the things you use are manufactured all over the world and it is difficult to trace all their ecological impacts. The *Global Footprint Network* has calculated the footprint of the average Canadian; by telling a computer program some basic facts about yourself it can calculate your personal footprint.

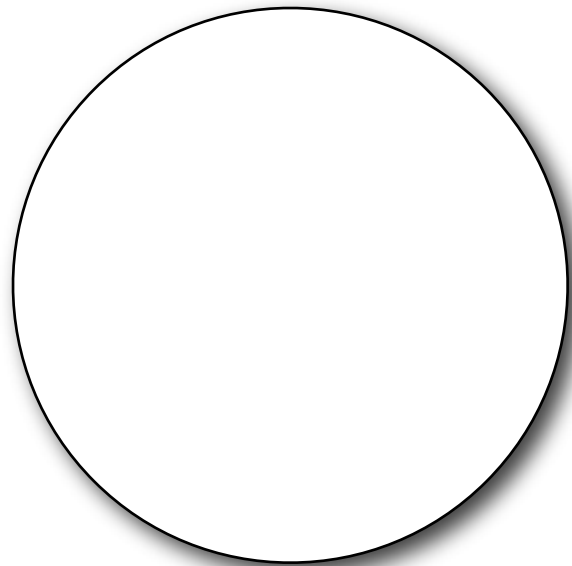
## Assignment

You will use the footprint calculator at [www.earthday.net/footprint](http://www.earthday.net/footprint) to calculate your personal footprint. Answer the quiz questions honestly—you are not being marked on the size of your footprint!

Record your answers to the quiz questions. This is for reference only, so that you can complete the assignment later.

1. Record your footprint in the following table. Complete the pie chart to represent your footprint.

Category	Global Hectares	Legend
Food		
Mobility		
Shelter		
Goods/Service		
<b>Total Footprint</b>		



2. What is the largest category in your footprint?

Name:

Section:

Date:

3. Look at your answers for this category. What factor do you think contributes most to your footprint? Explain your answer.

4. Can you do anything to reduce your footprint in this category? Explain what you can do, or why you can do nothing. (Hint: use the "Take Action" link to get a footprint savings calculator.)



Name:

Section:

Date:

## Ecological Footprint Quiz Worksheet

*Note: these answers are for your reference only—the only wrong answer is a false one!*

How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

How big is the city, town, or place where you live? \_\_\_\_\_

What city has the most similar weather to your's? \_\_\_\_\_

### Food Footprint

1. How often do you eat animal-based products? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How much of the food you eat is processed, packaged, or imported? \_\_\_\_\_

### Goods Footprint

3. Compared to the people in your neighbourhood, how much waste do you generate?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Shelter Footprint

4. How many people live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the size of your home? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which housing type best describes your home? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you have electricity in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

### Mobility Footprint

8. On average, how far do you travel on public transportation each week? \_\_\_\_\_

9. On average, how far do you go by motorbike each week? \_\_\_\_\_

10. On average, how far do you go by car each week? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you bicycle, walk, or use animal power to get around? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Approximately how many hours do you spend flying each year? \_\_\_\_\_

13. How many litres per hundred kilometers does your car consume? \_\_\_\_\_

14. How often do you drive in a car with someone else, rather than alone? \_\_\_\_\_