



#PodcastsInTheClassroom

Episode Question Ideas: Episode 88

The Unbearable Lightness of Cultural Resources: An Adaptation Story with Dr. Marcy Rockman

<https://www.americaadapts.org/episodes/the-unbearable-lightness-of-cultural-resources-an-adaptation-story-with-dr-marcy-rockman>

Full Episode Questions

- Dr. Rockman observes that society prioritizes time over resources. In what ways do you see this happening in your community? What technological innovations might help people preserve resources while not constraining their time? Dream big!
- How is cultural heritage in your community being impacted by climate change? Who are the decision-makers involved in preserving cultural heritage in the face of climate change threats? What are their priorities? What challenges are they facing?
- How does this episode help you think about the intersections of the humanities and climate science in new ways? What new career paths does it present that you hadn't previously considered?
- One underlying theme in this episode is the idea of prioritizing what to save and what not to save. How do you make those decisions?

Segment Questions

- At 10:00, Dr. Rockman asks why we, as a society, tend to value convenience and time over the environment. Have you ever considered this question? What are your thoughts on this? Why do you think society has shifted to this focus?
- At 55:00, Dr. Rockman begins to describe the tensions between natural and cultural resources, and shares an observation from a colleague that the concepts of nature and culture are gendered, but that management of nature and culture are oppositely gendered in our societal framing. What are the implications of genderedness in this context?



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

Related Open Education Materials

Learn more about issues raised in this episode! You may find the following open educational resources from MIT OpenCourseWare of interest.



11.947 History and Theory of Historic Preservation

This course gives students a grounding in the history, theory and practice of historic preservation and how laws, public policies and cultural attitudes shape how we preserve or do not preserve the built environment. Educators have access to lecture notes, assignments, and an extensive reading list including resources from the National Park Service.

Link to course materials: <https://tinyurl.com/y2kw53f4>

Image caption: Demolition of the former Penn Station concourse raised public awareness about preservation.



21W.775 Writing about Nature and Environmental Issues

Professor Cynthia Taft offers insights on balancing intensive writing and reading in this course. In addition, educators have access to examples of writing assignments and activities, ranging from short assignments to essays and workshops. The reading list also includes authors such as Thoreau, Carson, Kingsolver, and many more.

Link to course materials: <https://tinyurl.com/y3k3g3s8>

Image caption: The Three Brothers rock formation is a popular tourist attraction at Yosemite National Park. This course focuses on writings about American landscapes and students will examine the symbolism and environmental issues surrounding these landscapes. (Image courtesy of [Mitchell Cipriano](#) on flickr. License CC BY-NC-SA.)



21H.421 / 21H.185 Introduction to Environmental History

Professor Harriet Ritvo gives a historical overview of the interactions between people and their environments, focusing primarily on the period after Columbus up to the current environmental crisis. Educators have access to writing assignments with examples of student work. In addition, readings are accompanied by question guides, and lecture materials and notes are also available.

Link to course materials: <https://tinyurl.com/y5c2qsbt>

Image caption: Mercury Bay in New Zealand is one location Captain James Cook landed during his exploratory expeditions. (Photo courtesy of [BullockCart](#) on Flickr. [CC-BY-NC-SA](#))



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](#).