STUDENT REFERENCE SHEETS

These reference sheets provide a snapshot of the climate issues facing each country.

Divide the countries between your group, once you have finished reading, come together and discuss which issues you feel are most important.

ARAB STATES

BAHRAIN

Bahrain faces critical challenges. It heavily depends on fossil fuels, causing rising emissions and making it tough to switch to clean energy. Being a small island nation, Bahrain is at risk from rising sea levels, which could cause significant damage. The country relies heavily on food imports, making it vulnerable to global market changes and price increases. Additionally, over-extraction of water leads to saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources. To secure a sustainable future, Bahrain needs to tackle emissions, diversify its energy sources, prepare for climate change impacts, enhance food security, and manage its water resources more wisely.

EGYPT

Egypt confronts several critical challenges. Rising sea levels threaten the vital Nile Delta, crucial for agriculture, while Egypt also deals with increasing emissions. Outdated infrastructure and a fast-growing population make transitioning to cleaner energy sources tough. Desertification and rising seas are claiming arable land, directly impacting agriculture and economic stability. Inflation of food prices, linked to economic instability, limits access to affordable food for many. Moreover, unsustainable agricultural practices cause land degradation, especially in the Nile Delta. These issues underscore the importance of sustainable practices, cleaner energy, and economic stability for Egypt's future well-being.

JORDAN

Jordan grapples with pressing issues. Water security is a significant concern due to scarce resources, aggravated by outdated carbon-dependent infrastructure. Geographical limitations limit hydroelectric power potential, and a lack of expertise hinders wind and solar energy development. Water scarcity leads to desertification, causing the loss of valuable land for farming. This scarcity, along with land degradation, directly impacts food availability. Climate change worsens water shortages, affecting both public health and agriculture. Jordan faces

a complex challenge that demands modernizing infrastructure, harnessing renewable energy, and sustainable water management for a more secure and prosperous future.

KUWAIT

Kuwait is dealing with significant challenges. Rising sea levels are causing its salt marshes, important for the environment, to shrink. The country heavily depends on fossil fuels, making it tough to transition to cleaner energy. Frequent dust storms disrupt daily life, damage infrastructure, and cause economic problems. Kuwait relies a lot on imported food, which can be risky if supply chains are disrupted. Moreover, the air quality is poor due to industrial pollution and desert dust storms, leading to health problems for people. These issues show the need for Kuwait to diversify its economy, improve food security, and reduce pollution for a better future.

LEBANON

Lebanon is grappling with a series of challenges. Extreme weather events like severe storms and forest fires have become more common. However, the country's shift towards cleaner energy sources is made complicated by economic difficulties. Deforestation and land degradation pose threats to both biodiversity and economic stability. Additionally, Lebanon's economy faces instability and high inflation rates, making it difficult for low-income communities to access affordable food. These challenges underscore the need for Lebanon to address climate impacts, prioritize clean energy, and find solutions for economic stability to ensure a better future for its citizens.

MOROCCO

Morocco encounters various pressing challenges. Its coast suffers from shoreline erosion and flooding, while rising temperatures harm agriculture. Outdated grid infrastructure makes it difficult to distribute renewable energy. Desertification, driven by unsustainable practices like overgrazing, reduces arable land, leading to economic instability and migration in rural areas. Land degradation and water scarcity further affect food availability and agricultural stability. These issues underscore the need for Morocco to modernize its energy distribution, implement sustainable agricultural practices, and manage water resources wisely to ensure a more secure and sustainable future for the country.

OMAN

Oman confronts several significant challenges. Its coastal areas are at risk from rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion, and frequent cyclones. The nation heavily depends on fossil fuels, making the shift to cleaner energy sources complex. Rising temperatures contribute to water scarcity, impacting both land and habitats and straining the economy, especially in agriculture. Oman's reliance on food imports and extreme climate conditions affect food availability. Additionally, rapid urbanization and industrialization lead to habitat loss. Addressing these issues is crucial for Oman's sustainable future, requiring a shift to cleaner energy, improved water management, and thoughtful urban planning.

QATAR

Qatar confronts significant challenges due to its extreme heat and heavy dependence on fossil fuels. Transitioning to cleaner energy sources is complicated by this reliance. The extreme weather, especially scorching temperatures, poses risks to infrastructure and economic stability. Qatar's heavy reliance on imported food raises concerns about access and stability, especially given global supply chain vulnerabilities. Furthermore, poor air quality, primarily caused by industrial activities and vehicle emissions, affects public health. Addressing these issues is crucial for Qatar's sustainable future, emphasizing the need for cleaner energy solutions, climate resilience, and food security measures.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia encounters significant challenges. It relies heavily on fossil fuels, mainly oil, for its economy and faces extreme heat. Transitioning to cleaner energy is complicated by its status as the world's largest oil exporter. Groundwater depletion leads to desertification and a decrease in farmable land. Excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides affects food quality. Changing temperatures and weather patterns increase the risk of diseases like dengue fever. These issues highlight the need for Saudi Arabia to diversify its economy, conserve water resources, improve agricultural practices, and address health concerns associated with climate change for a more sustainable future.

UAE

The UAE is caught between fast development and big sustainability goals. They're investing in clean energy, but it's tricky to make it all work. With temperatures rising, they need lots of energy for cooling, which strains their infrastructure and economy. They also rely on desalinated water for farming, which affects food supply stability. Plus, coral reefs are suffering because of higher sea temperatures, harming marine life. It's a balancing act between growth and protecting the environment, and the UAE faces important challenges to achieve their sustainability aims while managing their growing needs.