Using CalEnviroScreen 4.0 to Conduct an Environmental Justice Assessment of Your Community

PART 1: CHOOSING THE LOCATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASSESS

Choose an address to make the center of your inquiry. This could be the address of your school, home, or any other place in your local area. Provide as much information as you can, below. You can come back to fill out information later if you do not have it now.
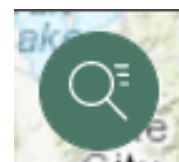
What is the location you will use to anchor your research? (school, home, park, or other)	
Street Address	
City, County	
ZIP Code	
What is the name used to describe the area or neighborhood where this place is located?	
What is the number of the Census Tract in which this place is located?	
What is the number of people living in the Census Tract?	
What do you know about types of pollution that are affecting the area close to the address you entered above?	
What do you know about the characteristics of the local population that could make people more likely to experience negative consequences from pollution?	

In this activity we will gather information about the area using CalEnviroScreen 4.0. This will help us understand the Environmental Justice issues that could be of special concern in the area that you are researching.

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PART 2: GATHERING INFORMATION

First, we'll explore the Indicator Maps. Each map shows information about one particular variable, and there is information provided to explain why each indicator is important to track.

- Choose from the menu on the left side of the screen to explore each of the population characteristics below in more depth. You can read about why each indicator is tracked.

- Then use the search tool in the upper-right corner of the map (shown at right) to search for the address or Census Tract number you entered in Part 1.
  You can also use the Zoom In and Zoom Out functions to explore the map.

- Hover the mouse over your address and click on the location. A pop-up will appear that shows the number of your Census Tract and provides information about the indicator. Use the information in the pop-up to fill in the table below. Make sure to add the number and population of your Census Tract on Page 1.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	How is this measured?	Census Tract Percentile
Asthma		
Cardiovascular Disease		
Low Birth Weight		
Education		
Housing Burden		
Linguistic Isolation		
Poverty		
Unemployment		

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There are also Indicator Maps for several different types of pollution that can affect people. Again, you can choose from the menu on the left side of the screen to explore each of the pollution burden indicators in more depth. You can read about why each indicator is tracked and then use the map to find out the percentile for the Census Tract that you are studying.

POLLUTION BURDEN	What is it?	Census Tract Percentile
Ozone		
PM2.5		
Diesel Particulate Matter		
Drinking Water Contaminants		
Children's Lead Risk from Housing		
Pesticide Use		
Toxic Releases from Facilities		
Traffic Impacts		
Cleanup Sites		
Groundwater Threats		
Hazardous Waste		
Impaired Waters		
Solid Waste Sites		

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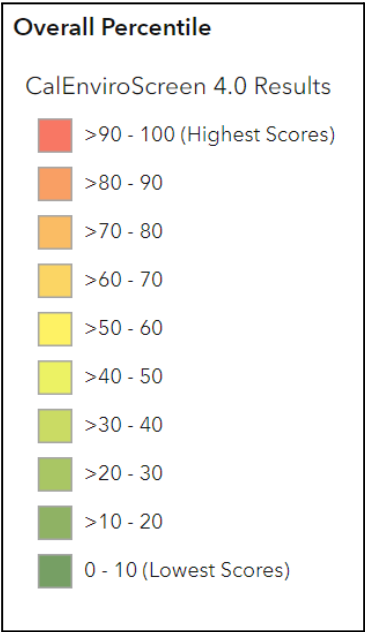
PART 3: DATA ANALYSIS

1. Use colors to summarize the results of your data collection in the two tables you completed in Part 2.
   - If the percentile for your Census Tract was >74, shade that row of the table RED
   - If the percentile for your Census Tract was 50-74, shade that row ORANGE
   - If the percentile for your Census Tract was 25-49, shade that row YELLOW
   - If the percentile for your Census Tract was <25, shade that row GREEN

2. Make a list of the top 3 Population Characteristics and Pollution Burdens affecting the Census Tract. (*Note: You could create a public information campaign to raise awareness about these issues.*)

3. Represent the information you assembled in the two tables in two bar graphs. Discuss ways in which graph design can help people understand the data better.

Now, finally, let's visit the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Results Map to see the area you are studying is represented. When the page loads, click the link to open the map in a new window. Once on the map, use the search tool to search for your address or Census Tract of interest.

In which category does your Census Tract fall on the Results Map? Circle the correct category on the copy of the map legend shown at right.

Click on your Census Tract to see what information comes up in the pop-up window. You can check the data in your tables against the information that is shown in this window. You can also fill in any Percentile indicators for your community that you did not record in Part 1.

Overall Percentile

CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Results

- >90 - 100 (Highest Scores)
- >80 - 90
- >70 - 80
- >60 - 70
- >50 - 60
- >40 - 50
- >30 - 40
- >20 - 30
- >10 - 20
- 0 - 10 (Lowest Scores)

What additional information was provided about the people who live in the Census Tract?

At the end of this activity, how has your knowledge of this area changed? Do you think there are Environmental Justice issues that are important to address to help the people who live in this area?