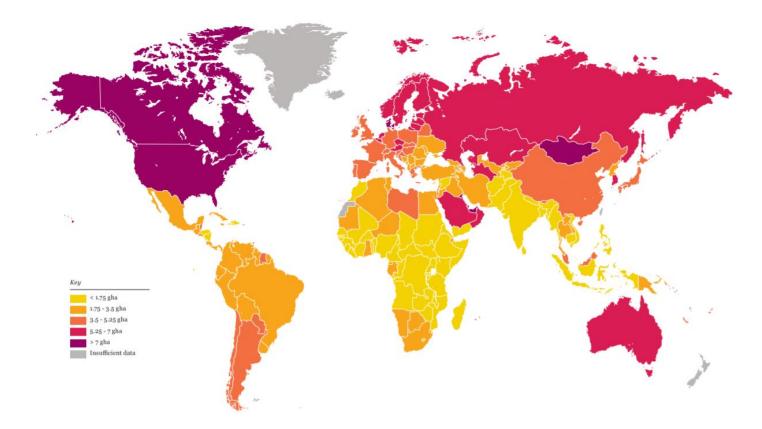
## **Ecological footprint**

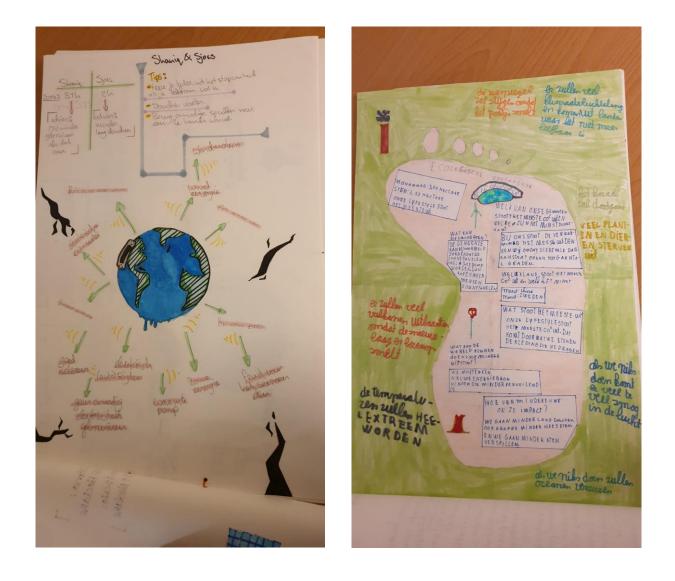
The ecological footprint measures human demand on nature, that is the quantity of nature it takes to support people or an economy. It tracks this demand through an ecological accounting system. The accounts contrast the biologically productive area people use for their consumption to the biologically productive area available within a region or the world. In short, it is a measure of human impact on Earth's ecosystem and reveals the dependence of the human economy on natural capital.

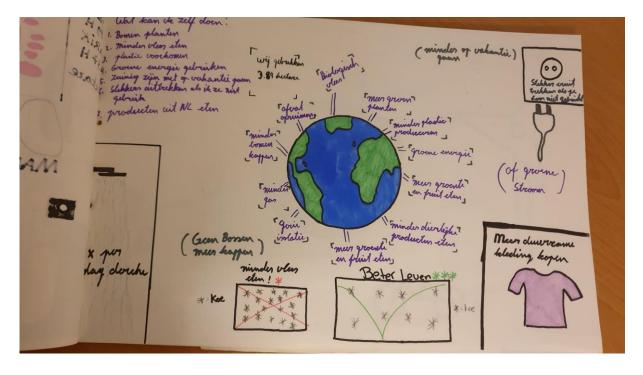
The base is that any consumption can be converted into an area that is needed for its production. This makes it possible to compare the environmental impact of different consumption behaviour (lifestyles) or of different population groups (countries) with each other. As this measure also works with a usable area limit, the footprint also indicates to what extent the regenerative capacity of a certain productive area, or of the earth as a whole, is affected. For example, the footprint can be useful as an indicator for the sustainability of certain consumption patterns.

The figure below shows the global map of ecological footprint. As you can see The Netherlands score very high, which in this case is not a good thing.



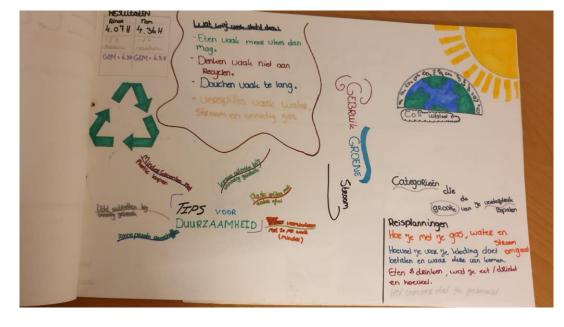
The Dutch students measured their own ecological footprint and thought of ways to reduce that footprint. They made posters of their footprint and their thoughts to improve it. The poster were shown to the local government.

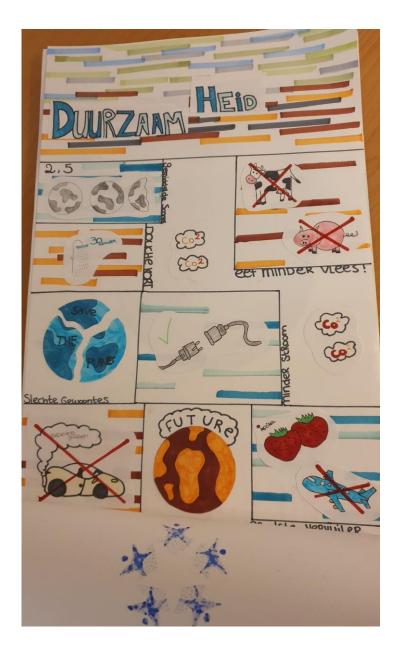


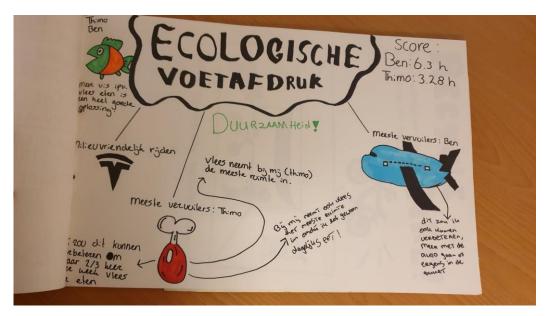








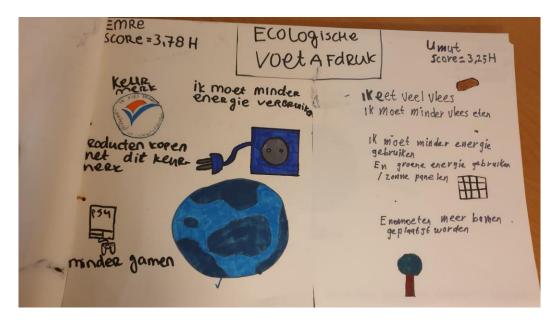


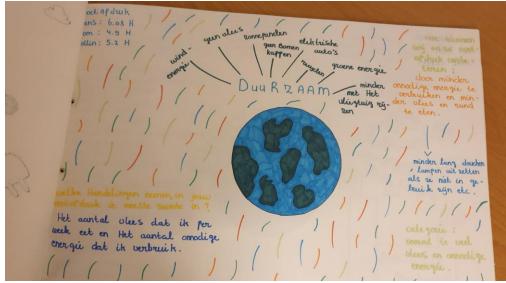




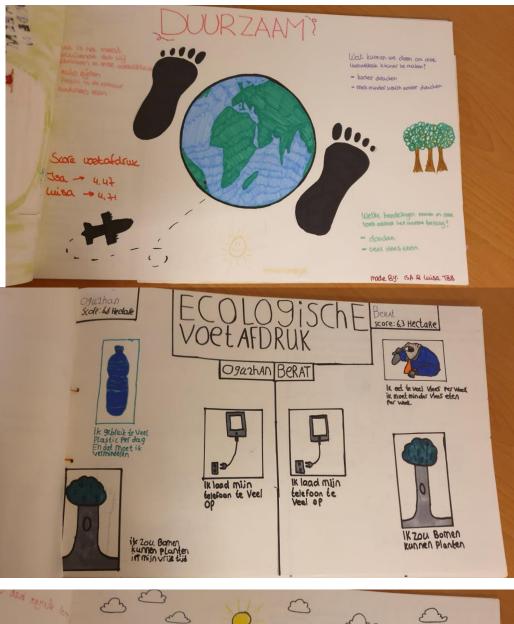


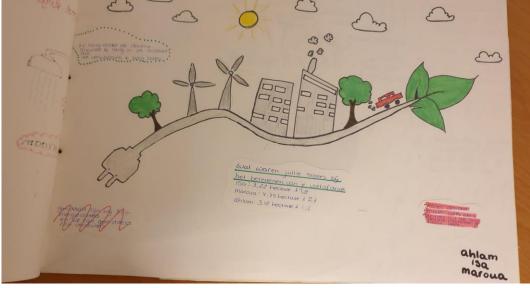


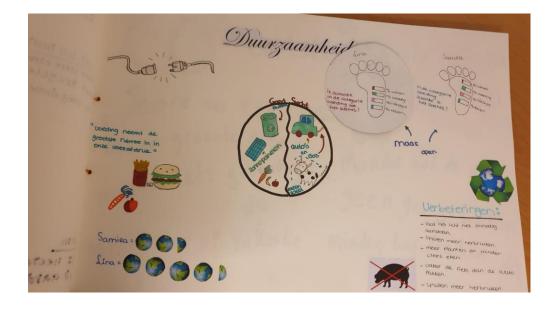


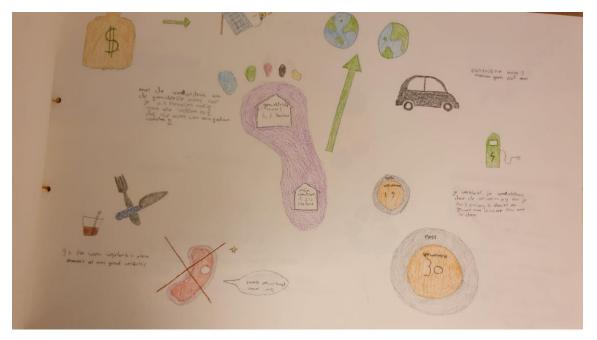




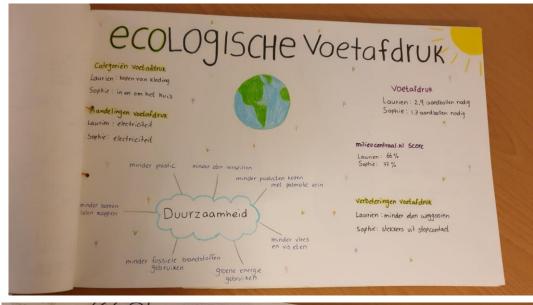














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