

GLOBAL SCHOLARS

Global Scholars is a virtual exchange program that connects students ages 10 to 13 in cities around the world. Guided by their teachers, students participate in a project-based curriculum and engage with international peers in e-classroom discussion boards to learn how to solve a global problem.



The curriculum advances nine [student learning outcomes](#) developed by Global Cities, Inc., which are designed to prepare students to be globally competent adults. There are four global learning outcomes (appreciation for diversity, cultural understanding, global knowledge, global engagement), and five general learning outcomes that support growth in all academic subjects (digital literacy, language communication, self-efficacy, academic engagement, critical thinking). Each unit emphasizes a thematic group of indicators across these outcomes, supporting students' ongoing development of global competency.

Global Scholars, which is conducted in English, is operated by **Global Cities, Inc.**, a program of Bloomberg Philanthropies. Global Cities provides the curriculum, access to the password-protected e-classroom, and professional development for educators. **Schools** agree to provide access to devices with internet connection, two hours per week for Global Scholars activities, and an enthusiastic educator to lead activities and participate in required professional development.

There are no fees to participate. For more information, visit www.globalcities.org.

2023-24 Curriculum: Nature and Our Cities

More people live in cities today than ever before. As urban areas expand, their needs increase—for energy, transportation, housing, waste disposal, and other services. The actions city leaders and residents take to support public health and infrastructure sometimes create new challenges for local and global ecosystems. Through the 2023-24 Global Scholars curriculum, students investigate the relationship between nature and cities, and develop solutions to protect urban natural spaces and biodiversity.



Unit 1: Introduction to Global Scholars

Students are oriented to the Global Scholars e-classroom and begin to develop global and digital citizenship skills. They exchange perspectives as they write their first discussion posts and reply to international peers. They create a video to introduce their class, school, cultures, and city, and share what it means to be a Global Scholar.



Unit 2: Nature in Our Lives

Students explore the role of nature in their cultures and everyday lives. They observe local flora, fauna, and landscapes, analyze how nature influences their daily lives, cultures, and health, and exchange perspectives with international peers. Students map nature in their community and create a guide to share how they can preserve and expand access to urban natural spaces.



Unit 3: Building Sustainable Cities

Students analyze the importance of nature to city infrastructure and public health, and the impacts of urbanization on the environment in and around their city. They research local urbanization challenges and possible nature-based solutions. Students design urban natural spaces to benefit their community and local ecosystems.



Unit 4: Our Natural World

Students examine the benefits of global biodiversity and ecosystems. They research the connections among the growth of cities, climate change, and biodiversity. They analyze the impacts of local actions on biodiversity and ecosystems around the world. Students conduct a survey to identify biodiversity issues in their community and recommend solutions.



Unit 5: Community Action Project

As a class, students plan, complete, and document a project to care for nature in and around their city. They collaborate with peers around the world as they create local solutions. They may design an outdoor classroom or create a field research event to share ways to care for urban natural spaces in their communities. Students may present a proposal to school leaders about how to increase access to nature in their school community. They may also create their own innovation to address urbanization challenges.