

## Student Worksheet 2.4

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### Activity 2.4 Putting Local Industry Into a Global Context

In this activity you will do some basic research on a local industrial firm that your instructor suggests. You will work with two or three of your classmates and together you will answer the following questions:

1. What are the major *products* of the industrial firm?
2. What are the major *inputs* in terms of sources of materials and energy?
3. Where do the *major materials and energy* come from. Are there any impacts at the source of extraction?
4. *How long* are the sources of materials and energy likely to be economically feasible to use?
5. What are the *major outputs* in terms of disposition of products and byproducts?
6. *Where* do the products and byproducts go and what are the impacts of the outputs at the sites of disposition?
7. *How long* will the products and byproducts last?

You will have at least two weeks to complete your research. You should use as many types of sources as possible to answer these questions including the library, the Internet, interviews with firm representatives, company brochures and other publications, and even tours or site visits. With your group, prepare a three to four page report (to be handed in) that responds to each of the above questions and that includes a complete list of sources and references.

On the assigned day, your instructor will draw a simple systems flowchart on an overhead or blackboard based on the information in your reports and your group's input. The flowchart will include all of the inputs and outputs of the industrial firm and the sources and **sinks** of materials and energy. You will also discuss the sustainability of the firm, and the ways in which its wastes can be reduced, re-used as inputs, or recycled.