A. Read the excerpt from Pilgrimage to India: A Woman Revisits Her Homeland by Pramila Jayapal (ISBN 1-58005-052-2).

What role should foreigners play in the “development” of Ladak?

How might the people of Ladak embrace the positive aspects of development while keeping the beneficial aspects of their culture intact? Can “development” be controlled?

B. Discussion Questions Using “Losing Shangri-La?” Article

1. Have students write about their image of “Shangri-La.” Discuss the history of the term.

2. What does “modernization or westernization = consumerism” mean? Do you agree? Do modernization and westernization have to mean the same thing? Who has benefited most from modernization? Who has paid the highest price?

3. The article states that as Nepalis’ income increases, consumption increases. Do you think that is true in the U.S.? It also states that as income increases, people no longer recycle because recycling is associated with a lower social status. Do you think this is true in the U.S.?

4. Tourism is an essential industry for Nepal, yet its environment is being seriously damaged by the influx of tourists. What steps might the government take to address the environmental issues while still encouraging tourism? What steps might trekking companies take to address these issues? Imagine that you are a trekker in Nepal. What is your responsibility towards the people and the environment in Nepal, if any? What is your responsibility regarding environmental problems in Nepal, if any, as a “global citizen”?