**FURTHER DISCUSSIONS:**

1. Do you think that Chinese people have a right to the same level

of material wealth and consumerism as those in western nations,

despite the enormous negative environmental impact?

2. Are the choices of the Chinese government and its people any

different today than those made more than a century ago by

western nations during the Industrial Revolution?

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3. Do you think the Three Gorges Dam project - an engineering and

economic success - was worth the cost of displacing more than a

million Chinese citizens?

4. Do you agree or disagree that the huge growth in Chinese

manufacturing wouldn’t be possible without insatiable western

consumers who are only interested in the lowest price?

5. What did the filmmaker contribute to your understanding of Edward

Burtynsky’s work by using moving images to examine his still images?

For example, in one scene we see a worker testing the tiny spray

valve for a steam iron, which Baichwal captures in rapid succession,

one after the other. In next shot we see a heap of discarded steam

irons, which a single still image could not capture.

6. Why do you think Edward Burtynsky presented landscapes

devastated by industry, global consumerism and electronic waste

through such beautiful and captivating images?

7. What effect, if any, did Edward Burtynsky’s visually stunning images

have on your reaction to the landscapes? Would you have reacted

differently if the images were bleaker and less visually seductive?

8. How can we reconcile our desire for modern conveniences of mass-produced

goods with our concern for environmental destruction?

9. *Reader, culture and text*

1. *How could the text be read and interpreted differently by two different readers?*
2. *If the text had been written in a different time or place or language or for a different audience, how and why might it differ?*

10. *Power and privilege*

1. *How and why is a social group represented in a particular way?*
2. *Which social groups are marginalized, excluded or silenced within the text?*

11. *Text and genre*

1. *How has the text borrowed from other texts, and with what effects?*