



Earth Day Celebration

The following lesson has been taken from the GenerationOn curriculum called Grow Involved for the School Holidays. For a complete listing of curricula for all ages please see www.childrenforchildren.org

Overview

During this lesson, students will explore the significance of Earth Day. What are some of the environmental issues that affect us today? Why is it important to address them? How can students help encourage others to celebrate Earth Day and promote awareness of environmental health? This lesson plan integrates service-learning with history, reading, and art.

Project Instructions

Objectives

- Students will learn about the history of Earth Day.
- Students will examine environmental issues that affect their community, region, nation, and world.
- Students will research organizations that offer materials, information, and products to help protect the environment.
- Students will produce flyers to help raise awareness about the upcoming Earth Day celebration; they will be posted in their schools and communities.

Content Standards and Curriculum Alignment

This lesson on rainforests aligns with science content for animals and habitats, plants, biodiversity, biomes, and ecosystems.

Materials

- *Dear Children of the Earth* by Schim Schimmel
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- One die (with the 5 and 6 covered)



Get On Your Feet!

Play Four Corners.

- Place one sheet of paper in each corner of the room and number each sheet, one through four. Ask all students to gather in the middle of the room. Read one of the sets of four choices and ask students to go to the corner that corresponds with the choice that best represents them.

Example:

"Would you most likely be found riding: a bike - corner 1, in a car - corner 2, on the subway - corner 3, on the bus - corner 4?" After everyone has chosen a corner, students in each corner can speak to the group about their choice and whether it seems environmentally responsible. Repeat the activity:

- What type of vehicle would you like to drive...a sports car, SUV, hybrid, or truck?
- What type of energy source would you be most likely to use... wind, solar, nuclear, or coal?
- I make sure to recycle...aluminum, glass, newspaper, or cardboard.
- The environmental issue that concerns me most is... global warming, water pollution, air quality, or urban sprawl.
- In order to keep the earth clean, I...recycle, pick up trash, walk instead of ride in cars, or make sure to turn off lights when they're not in use.
- Are you most like...fall, winter, spring or summer?

Service Lesson:

As a group, reflect on the Four Corners. Suggested questions include:

- Was there a common link between all of the questions? If so, what?
- Why do you think Earth Day is important?
- Aloud and as a group, students will read *Dear Children of the Earth*. Based on students' age and ability, the site leader should determine how to divide segments for reading aloud.
- How did reading *Dear Children of the Earth* make you feel? What did you learn that you may not have known before?
- As a group, brainstorm issues that affect the environment and record them, as you go, on a chalk board or large piece of paper.



- Brainstorm ways to help protect the environment and write these suggestions next to the problems. What are students doing to protect our world?
- As a group, write a response letter to Mother Earth. Ask each student to contribute at least one sentence.

Take Action

- Divide students into pairs, and ask each pair to choose an environmental problem and propose a response to the problem.
- Ask each pair to create a poster or flyer that promotes the celebration of Earth day on April 22. Encourage students to be creative and to decorate flyers with appropriate words and pictures that will make clear to their community the impact of environmental neglect.
- After the flyers are complete, ask students to think of locations where they can be posted. Some suggestions include schools, community centers, and businesses. Remind students to request permission before posting the flyers.

Assessment/Reflection

- What can we do each day to conserve resources and protect our planet?
- What will I do differently after today?
- How can I educate my family and friends about their role in protecting Mother Earth?
- What types of pollution do we see in our communities tonight and let's be ready to discuss them tomorrow.