

Lesson Plan

Eco-Project: What's wrong with the world? And how do we fix it?

Kay Granger Elementary School, Keller Texas

Overview

Students work together to research ecological issues and then specify solutions that families can take to address the issue. Teachers should be familiar with ecological issues, their causes and consequences. Curricular standards addressed include; research, writing a multi-paragraph essay, writing a persuasive essay, editing and revising, speaking and listening skills, and technology standards.

Lesson Objectives

The student will learn to work cooperatively in a group to select an ecological issue, research the issue to determine its causes and effects then develop solutions for the issue.

The student will collaborate with their group to organize their research into an outline and create a persuasive wiki essay.

The student will collaborate with their group to create a presentation that utilizes technology to share their issue and solutions with other class members.

The student will develop a service project that addresses their issue and promote it to the group. As a class, we will vote on one project to carry out.

The student will reflect upon their learning and what behaviors they will change as a result of the project.

Materials Needed

Computer with internet capability

Procedure

PBL Launch

Mini lessons will be taught on the following subjects:

- Reliable sources
- Creating research notecards (including source notecards)
- Cooperatively working together
- Collaborative writing
- Essay requirements
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Creating an outline

Grade Level: 3rd grade & higher

Estimated Time: 2-3 weeks

Connections to Core Values:
Citizenship and responsibility

Connection to CEP's 11 Principles:
Promotes core values
(Principles 1, 2, 3)

Helps create a caring school
community (Principle 4)

Provides students with opportunities
for moral action (Principle 5)

Fosters shared moral leadership
(Principle 9)

Engages families and community
members as partners (Principle 10)



Leading a National Call to Character

- Introduction and instructions on wiki
- Citing sources
- Developing a service project
- Presenting
- Reflection

In addition to teaching mini lessons, the teacher should actively monitor and assist students during research and development of their wiki

Assessment

The teacher should assess student progress at several formative checkpoints along the way.

- Notecard check
- Outline check
- Reflection

The summative for this project is the final wiki (including essay and group work) and presentation.

Extensions and Adaptations

With teacher guidance, support is provided within the group framework. In addition, inclusion teacher helps support students with research and writing.

For extension opportunities, students can take their learning and apply it to their community through promotion of environmental issues in the homeowner associations, city councils and school.

Related Links and Resources

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/environment/>

<http://www.wikispaces.com/>

<http://www.epa.gov/>

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

<http://worldwildlife.org/>

<http://www.sierraclub.org/>

<http://www.nasa.gov/>

Credit

Travis Niemeyer
5th grade teacher
Northwest ISD

Meagan Tarvin
5th grade teacher
Northwest ISD