

Go Green! Earth Day Poster LESSON PLAN



SUMMARY

This lesson plan will help you and your students to celebrate Earth Day. The international date for the celebration is usually April 22 and hundreds of millions of people participate every year. You can celebrate Earth Day up to a week before or after the date; however, this lesson plan can be adapted for use at any time of the year.

OBJECTIVES

To help your students learn about issues related to sustainable living and to enhance language skills using the creative activity of designing a poster.

KEY WORDS

Sustainability, green, lifestyle, consumerism, alternatives, reduce, shop, frugal, environmentally friendly, global warming, poster, paper, cardboard, glue, flour, water, color, design, plan.

LESSON PLAN

Introduction Describe Earth Day briefly and the date it is observed in the students' country. You should talk about Earth Day from a personal perspective if possible. Tell the students something that you do, or will start doing, to help the Earth. You can also mention one of these facts or find more on the Internet:

Earth Day Networks estimates that 500 million people from 4,500 organizations in 180 countries will participate in Earth Day events during the month of April. (2007)

Earth Day is big with schools. On many school calendars, it is the third most activity-inspiring holiday, after Christmas and Halloween.

A highlight of the annual Earth Day ceremony at the United Nations is the ringing of the Peace Bell that was given to the UN by Japan. It is made from coins given by school children to further peace on our planet.

Depending on the age of the students, you can also describe the differences between littering and polluting; the symbolic nature of Earth Day; the need for permanent changes in our lifestyles to ensure an ecologically stable future; the concept of sustainability.

Explanation Explain that the students will be designing a poster for Earth Day. The students can work in groups or the lesson can be a classroom project if other classrooms in the school choose to participate. There should be at least three groups to create three different posters.

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The posters can be judged by a group of parents or voted on by the other students in the school. The posters should be displayed in a prominent location in the school. Alternatively, the posters can be auctioned to parents/teachers with all proceeds going to a local green charity.

Make sure that you decide exactly what will happen so that there is no confusion or disappointment.

Group Type: pairs/groups/classrooms Assessment: voting/judging/auction Where to display?
What materials to use? students bring/find in school/limit what can be used

Other notes: _____

Rules/Instructions for the Poster


1. The theme for the poster is “What can we do?” 2. Poster must be made out of reused items and/or items that can be easily recycled (the back of an old poster, cardboard from a cardboard box, letters/pictures from magazines, glue made out of flour and water, etc.) 3. **If judged, posters should be judged on the creativity of the message, the creativity in the choice of materials used, and overall impact.**




You can help to get things started by using the board to elicit some ideas of what we can do to help the Earth (simplify for younger learners). You can also suggest specific formats for posters if needed.


Board Plan 1


Earth Day!


What can we do?


 Change light bulbs to highly efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

 Drive less.  

 Use less heat or air conditioning.

More trees – more oxygen, shade, and prevent soil erosion. 

 Eat food grown locally or grow your own food.

 Buy less stuff! \$\$\$

[Each thing you buy needs a factory to produce it and energy to power the factory.]

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You can give some ideas for poster design but make sure that they are only seeds that the students can grow into their own creative posters.

Board Plan 2

Earth Day!

Poster Design

We can...

- buy less things!
- plant trees!

•big titles
•lots of color
•good graphics
•great message
•CREATIVITY!!!

Let's start by...

turning lights and screens OFF!

Production The rest of the lesson should be open-ended. Each group has to plan a poster and start making it. You can go from group to group to help out.

MATERIALS: You should plan ahead for what materials the students will use to make the poster. You can ask them to bring in items that they can use or have a stack of magazines, a bunch of newspapers, flour/water (glue), foil, plastic wrap, etc. A fun option is to have the students scrounge through the school for materials that would normally go to waste or for recycling.

Presentation The students can present the posters to the classroom before they are displayed in the school. They will be proud of their work and want to talk about it.

Post Poster After finishing the activity (judging, auction, etc.) you can ask the students to each write a journal entry or personal letter to a parent/grandparent explaining what they learned while making the poster.

BE CREATIVE YOURSELF! This lesson plan is very open to modifications. Don't be afraid to change it to meet the needs of your students.

Good Luck and Happy Earth Day!