

WithOnePlanet

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Investigate

Lesson 7
Teacher notes

Looking after the environment

Years 5 to 6

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INQuIRY     

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WithOnePlanet

Climate change education
An xpend Foundation initiative

Looking after the environment

Lesson 7: Teacher notes

This document provides the teacher with the details of the lesson.

At a glance

Please note: This lesson has been written as a single lesson, but teachers are welcome to teach selected parts of the lesson only, or alternatively run the lesson over a number of classroom periods.

This lesson encourages students to think about actions and consequences. Students think about the type of things that could happen to the environment, and then step back and identify what could lead to this happening, and what actions could help avoid these scenarios. Students then create a 'Make your own adventure' book, which incorporates the actions and consequences of these actions that the students have identified.

For an assessment guide and key lesson objectives, refer to the Unit outline.

INQuIRY focus: Investigate

The *Investigate* phase (lessons 3-7) is designed to provide students with hands-on experiences of culture and how we use plants in different cultures. Students explore ideas, collect evidence, discuss their observations and keep records. The *Investigate* phase ensures all students have a shared experience that can be discussed and explained.

In the *Investigate* phase students develop a literacy product to represent their developing understanding. They discuss and identify patterns and relationships within their observations. Students consider the current views and deepen their own understanding.

Teacher background information

There are many documented consequences of not looking after the environment. The students may look at:

1. Large scale actions and consequences: Polluting the world leads to global warming and climate change, etc.
2. Medium scale actions and consequences: Cutting down trees can lead to landslides; polluting a river can lead to all the fish and other animals dying; cutting down all the trees in a city makes the city get much hotter, etc.
3. Small scale actions and consequences: Eating all the fruit from a fruit tree one day will mean there will be none for the coming days; not looking after plants can lead to plants not being there when they are needed for food or medicine, etc.

Equipment

- > Student worksheets.
- > Write your own adventure website: <http://www.inklestudios.com/inklewriter/getting-started/> (for extension activity).

Teacher preparation

It would be advisable to test the website prior to use in the class, as it can take some tinkering to get comfortable with how the website works.

Lesson steps

Please note: This lesson has been written as a single lesson, but teachers are welcome to teach selected parts of the lesson only, or alternatively run the lesson over a number of classroom periods.

1. Put students into groups of 3-4, and ask them to brainstorm ideas about what could happen to the environment if we don't look after it.
2. Join each group with another group. Students can share their ideas and create a joint list of ideas.
3. All ideas can be shared together to create a class master list.
4. Fill in the 'actions' worksheet, which has the class list of things that could happen to the environment in the left-hand column, actions that could prevent these things from happening in the middle column, and actions that could cause these things to happen in the right-hand column.
5. Students can now use this information to create a book. Students to choose the sex, age and name of their main character, as well as where they are from and where they live. Students to choose (or teacher may assign) actions and impacts from Activity 1 on which to base their story.

Extension activity

1. You and the students may like to create a 'Choose your own adventure' book, either as a class or in groups. The website, <http://www.inklestudios.com/inklewriter/getting-started/>, allows students to write stories which have different choices, each choice leading to a different outcome.