

The Environment Across the Curriculum

English/Language Arts

- Interview local elders about how the environment used to be; write stories comparing these perspectives with your perspectives on how it is now
- Read biographies of environmentalists then create a "living museum" where students take on the identities of these people and tell their life stories
- Study how advertising is being used to promote awareness of environmental themes

Social Studies/History

- Study different Native American tribes' relationships with the land they lived on, how they interacted with the environment, and their concepts of "owning" land
- Examine how climate change impacted events in world history and how global warming continues to have irreversible impacts
- Research government policy on an environmentally sensitive area or issue in your region; discuss and debate the policy

Languages

- Find out the words for "reduce, reuse, and recycle" in many languages and create a poster
- Compare the political positions of different countries with U.S. policies on environmental issues
- Compile a book of original poetry in different languages about the environment

Theater, Music, & Visual Arts

- Prepare a skit or play about the environment to be performed in a natural setting
- Create and perform jingles or raps to promote clean schools and playgrounds
- Decorate trash bins at school to make them attractive receptacles

The Environment

Math

- Present environmental statistics on the public-address system at school each morning
- Analyze the pattern of waste disposal at school
- Review the water or electrical bills at school and develop a conservation program to reduce costs

Physical Education

- Study the effect of pollution on the lungs and overall health
- Create a public service announcement on outdoor activities
- Plan a field trip to a nature reserve or park and hike

Computer

- Design and make flyers of recycling tips for the community
- Find out what happens to discarded computers in your community and research options for re-use
- Research and discuss: Does computer use result in less paper being used?

Science

- Learn about and then make recycled paper
- Study the progress made on deep water exploration that has led to discoveries about chemosynthesis and furthered the need for ocean conservation
- Find out how environmental issues and economics intersect to impact who makes decisions and how decisions are made about waste disposal, dump and incinerator placement, and toxic site clean ups