



A Year on Earth

Dear Teachers,

This guide has been developed as preparation and follow-up for your screening at the Reel Fun Film Festival of the film "A Year on Earth".

Discussion Questions

- How do human behaviours affect the environment?
- How is the environment negatively affected by humans?
- How can we help save endangered animal species?
- How did the 2004 tsunami affect Southeast Asia?
- How do coral reefs form? Why are they considered fragile?
- What can bats tell us about a forest ecosystem?

Lesson Plan 1

Student Objectives

- Research human impact on the environment
- Create an environmental awareness campaign
- Compose a business letter
- Design a poster

Materials

- Year on Earth video
- Research Material
- Internet
- Poster paper
- Markers, Pencil Crayons etc.
- Business Letter Guide
- Business Letter Rubric

Procedures

- Have students brainstorm the ways in which humans affect the environment. Ask the students to keep these responses in mind while viewing the video.
- After viewing the video go over the discussion questions.
- Present students with information on persuasive writing and persuasive language. Discuss with the students that when environmental issues are raised, often times individuals need to be persuaded to change their actions in order to reduce or prevent environmental damage.
- Distribute business letter format. Brainstorm with students individuals that they could write a letter to concerning one of the environmental concerns presented in the video.



- Assignment: Have students create a business letter convincing an individual or an organization to make changes to improve an environmental situation.
- Students will design a poster corresponding to the points raised in their business letter. Have students present their posters to the class. The posters can then be displayed around the school to help raise awareness on environmental issues.

Lesson Plan 2

Student Objectives

- Explore the connection between environment and an endangered species
- Research an endangered species
- Viewing issues from different perspectives

Materials

- Year on Earth video
- Internet
- Research Materials

Procedure

- Have students brainstorm the ways in which humans affect the environment. Ask the students to keep these responses in mind while viewing the video.
- After viewing the video go over the discussion questions.
- Review with students the endangered species featured in the video. Have Students choose one of the endangered species from the video. If students wish, they may choose an endangered species not in the video as long as they receive approval from the teacher before they begin.
- Allow students time to research the species that they have chosen. Possible resources may include encyclopedias, books, magazines, news articles or the following websites:

General

<http://www.panda.org/index.cfm>

<http://www.earthwatch.org>

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



Leatherback Sea Turtles

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

Okavango Crocodile

<http://academic.sun.ac.za/consecol/okavango/>

Pantanal Otters

<http://www.pantanal.org/Mainpant.htm>

Bats of Malaysia

<http://wildasia.net/main/article.cfm?articleID=125>

<http://www.lubee.org/global-malaysia3.aspx>

Temple Monkeys of Sri Lanka

<http://www.zooreach.org/Networks/Primate/Primate%20CAMP%20summary.pdf>

<http://www.earthwatch.org/site/pp2.asp?c=dsJSK6PFJnH&b=1147463>

Coral Reefs of the Bahamas

<http://www.discovery.com/exp/coralreef/coralreef.html>

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/coral/>

Assignment

Have students create a diary entry where they are writing as a member of the endangered species they have chosen. Ask students to focus on the food that the species eats, their habitat and day-to-day living habits and how those things have been affected by environmental damage.