



Teacher Tip of the Week

New Teacher Support Program 2009-2010

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Teacher Tip of the Week
New Teacher Support
Program
Wilson County Schools
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30th Anniversary Earth Day Cross-Curriculum Activities for Your Classroom

HOW TO DO IT— CHECKLIST



Collecting Papers

Collecting papers can be such a nuisance, especially with frequent no names. Next to your completed homework/assignment folder, place an attached highlighter and pencil. Have the students highlight their name every time they turn something in. If they forget, they can use the pencil, and then highlight. It solves the no-name problem and the kids love to use the highlighter!



This week, in honor of Earth Day, Education World offers two dozen classroom activities for use across the grades. Help keep Earth Day alive for another generation with these cross-curriculum activities!

"Bridge Over Troubled Water" was a hit song, *Apollo 13* blasted off into space, and anti-war protests at Kent State University led to the deaths of four students in Kent, Ohio. Those were some of the events of 1970, when Americans first celebrated Earth Day.

"The objective was to organize a national demonstration of concern for the environment so large that it would shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda," recalled Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a United States senator from Wisconsin. "It was a gamble, but it worked."

"At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans," states the Earth Day Network. "Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or even bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. Environment was a word that appeared much more often in spelling bees than on the evening news."

Earth Day 1970 turned all that around, and Earth Day 2000 continues the effort. This year's Earth Day marks the 30th anniversary of the event that gave birth to the modern environmental movement. The day will be marked by events staged around the globe.

In honor of the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, Education World offers classroom activities for use across the grades. Help keep Earth Day alive for another generation with these cross-curriculum activities:

[Water, water, everywhere -- geography, critical thinking, and language arts.](#)
(Grades 4 and up.)

Have your students check today's conditions across the United States by using the [Streamflow Conditions Map](#). Ask them to find out which states are experiencing especially wet or dry conditions and to recheck the site each week for a month to see how conditions change. Then they should write a brief summary of the conditions each week and a month-end summary.

[Trees clear the air -- math.](#) (Grades 6 and up.)

Scientists estimate that a hectare of trees (about 1,000 trees) is able to use about 20,000 kg (4,375 pounds) of carbon dioxide. Use the Planting Trees activity from the [ARM Education Site](#) (Department of Energy): Lesson Plans to help students calculate how many trees it takes to suck up the pollutants their family car produces.

[See what you can see -- geography and history.](#) (Grades 6 and up.)

Assign each student a body of water somewhere in the world. Students can use library and Internet resources to learn as much as possible about the body of water's geography, history, science, and environmental condition. Find a student work sheet for this activity in the [Navigating a Sea of Research](#) activity from the Discovery Channel.



Continued on page 2...

Earth Day Cross-Curriculum Activities for Your Classroom

(continued from page 1...)

[Is your school energy-efficient? -- conservation, diagramming, surveying, critical thinking. \(Grades 3 and up.\)](#)

[Conserving Energy at School](#) is designed to help students recognize how their school conserves or wastes energy and determine what they can do to conserve more energy. Students diagram the school, locate areas where energy is wasted, and decide what to do to solve the problem.

[Earth sun catcher -- art, geography. \(Grades 3 and up.\)](#)

Have each student add five drops of blue food coloring to 1/3 cup of white glue and mix. Help children fill margarine-tub lids with the glue. Let the glue dry completely. Students should carefully peel the blue circles out of the lids and use brown permanent markers to draw landforms on the circles. Stick the sun catchers to a window! This and other great Earth Day activities can be found on the [For the Love of Earth](#) page of the Mrs. Bee's Busy Classroom Web site.

[Cleaning up our air -- science. \(Grades 6 through 8.\)](#)

Many manufacturers

use electrostatic precipitators to capture particulate matter (small particles of dirt) before it is released into the air. Invite students to perform a simple experiment using a balloon and black pepper to see how electrostatic precipitators work. This Air Pollution Control Lesson from the [Air Quality Lesson Plans](#) Web page provides two hands-on experiments.

[Tracking trash -- math and graphing. \(Grades K through 8.\)](#)

Students can use a chart from the [Reducing Cafeteria Waste](#) activity to track the amount of trash people throw away each day in the cafeteria. Help them turn the stats into a bar graph that shows the number of items -- plastic, bottles, milk cartons, and so on -- people throw out each day.

[Sun cooking -- science. \(Grades K through 8.\)](#)

Help students learn about the potential of solar energy as they bake [Solar S'Mores](#) in the sun in this activity from the South-eastern Michigan Math-Science Learning Coalition.

[Friendly packaging -- science and critical thinking. \(Grades 3 and up.\)](#)

Invite your students to study a variety of product packaging and discuss which packages are most "Earth friendly." Then have them work in small groups to redesign a product whose package they deem "unfriendly." This Environmental Features activity is one of many you'll find at [Earth Care: A Unit on the Environment](#) created by Minnetonka (Minnesota) public school teachers.

[Give Earth a hand -- bulletin board. \(Grades K through 8.\)](#)

Have each student trace a hand and cut it out. On each finger, the student can write one way in which he or she can help Earth. Display the colorful hands around a map of the world or an art rendering of planet Earth.

[Biodiversity -- science. \(Grades K through 6.\)](#)

Ask students to record their observations of the ecosystem surrounding their school. Organize students into five groups -- the sound group, the plant group, the animal group, the mineral group, and the



**"... do something.
Pay your rent
for the privilege of
living
on this
beautiful,
blue-green,
living Earth."**

**—Dave Foreman,
Earth First!**

smell group. Each group will gather evidence (material, drawings, or descriptions) appropriate to the group's theme. —
Education World

A New Series: Testing Tips for Students #14



Now that standardized tests are drawing near, a new series to help students and teachers prepare for the months ahead:

Researchers have reported on test-taking studies that documented improved test scores when students

- ate plenty of sweets the week before testing;
- remained well hydrated during testing; and
- chewed gum during testing.

'09-'10 NEW TEACHER SUPPORT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



Mallory Flynt

Stoner Creek Elementary

Speech

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"I became a teacher to make a difference in students' lives. Communication is a huge part of forming relationships. Students with communication disorders often are reluctant to talk in front of the class if they are aware they speak differently. It is very rewarding to see the progress they make and how excited they get."—Mallory Flynt

WILSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS GRADUATION DATES

- Lebanon High School – May 28, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. – Lebanon High School Football Field
- Mt. Juliet High School – May 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. – Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, TN
- Watertown High School – May 27, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. – Watertown High School Football Field
- Wilson Central High School – May 29, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. – Belmont Univ.

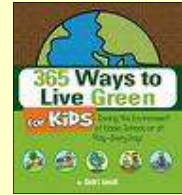
TEACHER WEBSITE of THE WEEK:



<http://www.elkiosco.gob.mx/>

Designed specifically for elementary students, this is an excellent introduction to the history, people and culture of Mexico. You could even use this site for some science lessons since the site also covers the wildlife and plants of the region. In addition to English, the site also comes in a Spanish language version of course. But there are also French and Italian translations. Very nicely done.

Off the shelf:



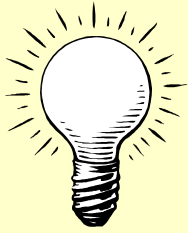
365 Ways to Live Green for Kids: Saving the Environment at Home, School, or at Play--Every Day!
by Sheri Amsel

In the green conscious world we live in today, parents realize the importance of teaching the lessons of green living, early on. With this book, parents can encourage their children to be ecologically friendly with fun lessons such as:

- The three Rs: reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling
- Why we should keep the air, oceans, and forests pollution free
- Why organic food is tastier? and better? for you
- How to protect plants and animals
- Earth Day celebrations

Complete with tips for every day of the year and activities for home, school, and during playtime. This book reveals how easy it is to be an ecofriendly family and prepare for a better future together.

Sheri Amsel has published more than twenty books on nature and environmental topics. Her love of science and the outdoors led to degrees in botany, zoology, and a masters in anatomy and biomedical illustration. Her ongoing work includes advising schools on the development of educational nature trails; writing science programming; and performing habitat, science, and conservation workshops.



Strategies for Teachers . . .

Consensus 1-3-6

What is it?

A process that helps students to construct group understandings about issues.

What is its purpose?

- For students to clarify their attitudes and values
- For students to reach agreement about the relative importance of ideas and issues.

How do I do it?

- Students make individual lists of ideas about the topic. Give them a time limit to complete the task.
 - Students work in groups of three to combine their ideas into one list.
 - Ideas are discussed, modified, justified, included or rejected until a list is agreed upon.
 - A limit on time and the number of items might make the task easier to manage.
 - Two groups repeat the process.
- Final lists might be displayed on butchers' paper for discussion by the whole class.

How can I adapt it?

- Use 1 - 2 - 4 groupings for younger students or those who have had few cooperative learning experiences.
 - Compare consensus statements with those made at the beginning.
 - Ask each group to prioritize its ideas.
 - Continue with the process until a class consensus is reached.
- Ask each student to explain and justify his or her personal view in relation to the class consensus.

How can it be used to evaluate students' language learning?

- Students could use self and peer assessment lists to evaluate their speaking and listening performances.
- Students could create texts which reveal the reflective processes they undertook and the arguments they used to justify their position.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HOME IMPROVEMENT
MONTH

PHYSICAL WELLNESS
MONTH

NATIONAL KITE MONTH

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL
YOUTH SERVICE DAYS
April 23-25

NATIONAL PIE WEEK
April 23-25

ASTRONOMY DAY April 24

MORSE CODE DAY April 27

ARBOR DAY April 30

NATIONAL DANCE DAY
April 29

