Green Jobs!
PowerSave Schools Lesson Plan

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School: Eisenhower Elementary
District: Corona-Norco Unified School District

Overview: 5th grade students will conduct research to discover various types of Green Jobs. They will focus on what makes the job ‘green’, where they could work if they had that job, what kinds of education is required for the job, and how that job impacts the world.

Objectives: After conducting research on a Green Job (using the Internet), the student will evaluate the job to determine how that job impacts the environment.

Subjects: Science, Language Arts

Suggested Grade Level: 5th-6th grade

California Standards Addressed:

  5th Science:
  6.i: Write a report of an investigation that includes conducting tests, collecting data or examining evidence, and drawing conclusions.

  5th Language Arts (Research and Technology):
  1.3: Use organizational features of printed text (e.g., citations, end notes, bibliographic references) to locate relevant information.
  1.4: Create simple documents by using electronic media and employing organizational features

  Writing Applications:
  2.3: Write research reports about important ideas, issues, or events

Time: 1-2 Weeks (Research, Discussions, Project, Presentations)

Materials:
- Internet/Computer
- Poster board or paper

This program is funded by California utility customers and administered by Southern California Edison under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.
Preparation and Background: Start with a story. After the students conduct some preliminary research on ‘green jobs’, The book *The Seal Pup* by James Thach is a wonderful discussion starter. Discussion continues on what makes a job green. Prepare discussion topics such as:

- What makes a ‘Green Job.’
- How can we help the environment?
- What would make it better?
- How is a job not green?

Procedure:

1. Initial research conducted to find a list of 10 ‘Green Jobs’. Students look at what makes the job ‘green’.
2. Read-a-loud of *The Seal Pup* by James Thach
3. Discussion on what makes a job ‘green’
4. More research on 1 of the jobs that the students round. Research includes:
   - Type of Job
   - How is it a green job?
   - Describe the job.
   - Where is this job found?
   - How much money could you be making in this job?
   - What college degree is requires/recommended?
   - Where could you go to college to get that degree?
   - Any other interesting information about this job.
5. Create a presentation (PowerPoint presentation, brochure, poster) that covers the above information

For Discussion: One interesting topic of discussion is whether a job that is advertised as green really serves the environment. Green Jobs are an ‘in’ thing today. Putting solar panels on a house may appear to be a ‘green job’, but is the company really ‘green’. Are the trucks they drive more efficiently run? Many of the students will find ‘green jobs’ that simply claim to be green because their cars are electric, but the company has not made other changes. Many truly ‘green jobs’ where the employee can make a real impact are in the field of engineering. Fashion is also an up and coming industry that is creating designs with more organic fabrics. Many of the girls in the class will enjoy discussing the fashion industry.

Extensions: This project can be extended even more for older students. Colleges are becoming more aware of their impact on the environment. Wouldn’t it be nice to go to a college for a future ‘green job’ that is ‘green’ itself? Students can research the colleges that they found to see if they are lowering their impact on the environment.
Students could additionally interview someone from the field that they picked. The students could find out more about the impacts to the environment, why someone would go into the field, and how to get started in the field.

Another extension would be to write an essay that would follow the job into the future. What would the world be like in 100 years if we all limited our impact on the environment? What would it be like if we didn’t?

Resources:

Example Student Green Job Posters

Park Ranger: Helping the environment through conservation.
Example Student Green Job Posters

Conservation Biologist: Helping the environment through species protection.

Fashion Designer: Helping the environment through organic fabrics.

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Fashion Designer: Helping the environment through organic farming.

Type of Job

- An Environmental Engineers search for ways to improve Earth’s natural environment. This work provides clean natural resources for human habitation. Environmental engineers lead hazardous waste management studies to classify the significance of such hazards, caution on treatment and containment, and develop managing to prevent accidents.
Green Jobs PowerPoint Slides

How Is It Green

- Environmental Scientists find new ways to be eco-safe, which is helping the environment, so it is green.
- Pollution is when things get contaminated or poisoned.
- There are different types of pollution: air pollution, water pollution, and land pollution.

Star pollution: Lights in the city cause the stars to appear dim or not appear at all.

WHAT WE DO

An environmental engineer’s main jobs are listed below.

Our job is to:
- Evaluate the significance of hazards
- Give advice on treatment and containment
- Develop regulation to prevent mishaps
- Design industrial wastewater treatment