



Humanities and the Sunshine State

What Sustains Us?

Florida Ecosystems in an Era of Rapid Change

University of Florida 20-24 June, 2016

ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

Teacher(s): Mrs. Stephanie Moody

Grade(s): 7

Subject(s): Civics

Title of Lesson: Email your representative - Problems of the Indian River Lagoon

Learning Objectives:

Students will evaluate the causes of pollution in the Indian River Lagoon in order to propose solutions.

Standards Addressed:

SS.7.C.2.12 Develop a plan to resolve a state or local problem by researching public policy.

Lesson Outline:

- Teacher facilitates student creation of a class tanglegram (Systems thinking map) of human-environment interaction of Indian River Lagoon. Variables will include: public policy
- From class tanglegram, students choose what they believe to be the most impactful threat to the Indian River Lagoon (based on research)
- Students each write a letter ^(email) to an elected public official to include
 - an appeal to this elected official - why did you choose this person instead of someone else - what impact could they have?
 - detailed causes of pollution of Indian River Lagoon
 - "solution" to pollution - including a similar example of this solution in a different environment
 - personal action to help solve this problem

Systems thinking connection (learning habits and/or tools used):

- tanglegram (systems thinking map) to detail causes & effects of humans & environment centered around Indian River Lagoon

Learning Strategies:

- Discussion
- Research
- Writing
- computer etiquette (email)
- cause-effect tanglegram

Science Concept(s):

- human - environment interactions

Humanities Concept(s):

- Civil engagement & responsibility
- Role of law on environment

Student Assessment Strategies:

- the letter (email) Students write will assess their individual understanding of the standard and problems facing Indian River Lagoon
- Students may send the email if they wish.

Benefit to my students:

Students have a voice in this conversation and an impact on our world!

Resources and Materials (supplies needed for activities):

- computers for research, email
- bulletin board for tanglegram