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 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
  - a "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):
- tangram (systems thinking map) to detail causes & effects of human & environment centered around Indian River Lagoon

Learning Strategies:
- Discussion
- Research
- Writing
- Computer etiquette (email)
- Cause & effect tangram

Science Concept(s):
- human - environment interactions

Humanities Concept(s):
- Civic 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 tangram

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