

Title:

Team Tree Tender; You Can Be The Change.

Author(s):

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Abstract:

After viewing the short film Tree Tender the students are encouraged to find hope in our ever-changing world. This project will help them to reflect on their own personal impact and encourage them to find a solution to implement in their daily lives to lessen their impact on our ever-changing world. The students will be able to experience how easy it is to make one small change and see that they can make a difference together. Through this classroom project and journal reflection students will be able to see how simple some of the changes they can make really are and attempt to put these changes into action. Another valuable part of this project is examining how America has become a throw away society. The students will be able to get hands-on experience in reusing/repurposing items. Overall, this project can help the students see how easy it is to lessen our overall impact on the Earth by make a small change in their daily life.

Subject, Grade, Level:

Environmental Science & Biology

High School, 9-12

On level, Honors, AP, IB, AICE

Learning objectives:

- Create a journal and compile qualitative data into a data table
- Collaborate and share journals with peers to identify area of impact on the environment
- Critically explore implications of their daily actions
- Research human impact on the environment
- Determine one small environmentally friendly change that can be made daily
- Create a hands on repurposed item to help minimize daily environmental impact

Assessment Questions:

- How do landfills impact the environment (what sort of items go to landfills)?
- How does human waste impact the environment?
- How would creating compost impact landfills?
- How are ecosystem services affected by humans and our throw away society?
- What is one small thing you can do to help in your everyday life?

Timeframe:

- This is a very flexible project and simple to set up. The journal and reflection portion will take a full week of the students time at home. You will need at least two days in class but can extend to a week or two if you choose to do so. There is a project component however it does not need to be created in class. Students will need notice to create this repurposed item.

List of materials:

- Laboratory notebook
- Text book
- Laptops and internet
- Household “waste” or items deemed unusable for repurposing

Procedure and general instructions (for instructor). REQUIRED.

- Make sure your students have background knowledge with students how humans impact the environment.
- The first assignment is to give the students a week to record their daily wasteful activities. Assign them a specific number of days for this.
- Check in and discuss as a class for a couple minutes everyday. Allow the students class time at the end of the week to create a data table from their daily journal to mark waste and possible recourse idea. This part should be done in partners or small groups so they can reflect together and hopefully identify areas of weakness. The students will need to target one specific small change they can implement into their everyday lives. You can have them present this to the class if you choose to do so. At minimum they should put a paragraph explaining why and how they will implement this one small thing into their daily routine.
- **Students will need about a week to identify and construct and waste item that can recreated/repurposed. You may want to create a rubric for this.**

Procedure and general instructions (for students).

- Day One- start a daily journal split it up into 3 parts of the day Ex. breakfast lunch and dinner. Record all the things that you do throughout the day the may have a direct or indirect effect on the environment. Ex. water use, waste etc.
- Day 5- find a partner and share your journals with them. Together discuss the best way to make a data table of the activities in which you contributed negatively to the environment and write in ways to possibly lessen this impact (problem/solution). Pick one problem/solution that you think is easy to implement. Under the data table explain how and why you will implement this one small change into your daily life. What impact do you think this one small change will have on the Earth? You may be asked to share this with the class, make it good!

- Day 10- present repurposed item to the class through a carousel activity and have the students vote on the best repurposed/most useful item.