

Summary of Curriculum Unit Objectives

UNIT	OBJECTIVES (abridged)		
	Concepts	Skills	Behaviors
<p>Kindergarten <i>Jay's Tree</i></p>  <p>Focus: Conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural environment includes sun, air, land, water, plants, animals. Trees provide many uses and benefits, including wood and paper products. Wasting paper and littering can harm the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and describe elements of the natural environment and explain why they are important. Determine which products are made from trees. Differentiate between behaviors that save paper and keep the environment clean and litter-free and those that do not. Explain why people should save paper and keep the environment clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use only as much paper and paper products as you really need. Put all trash in trash cans; do not litter. Recycle paper. Use only as much water as needed.
<p>Grade 1 <i>Bernie the School Bus</i></p>  <p>Focus: Conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything comes from the environment. The natural environment provides valuable resources for us to live. We waste natural resources in many ways in our homes. Wasting natural resources is not good for the environment. We can conserve natural resources and produce less waste in many ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the natural resource bases of various products. Differentiate between behaviors that conserve natural resources and those that waste resources. Describe behaviors that conserve natural resources and explain why conserving natural resources is good for the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use only as many paper products as you really need. Turn off lights, televisions, and other appliances when they are not being used. Turn off water faucets when the water is not being used. Close doors and windows when heat or air conditioning is on. Put trash in trash cans; recycle; do not litter.
<p>Grade 2 <i>The Rascals</i></p>  <p>Focus: Waste Reduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We use natural resources to make many products. When we bury our trash in landfills, the natural resources are lost and cannot be used again. We can reduce the amount of trash we produce in many ways. Recycling paper, metal, glass, plastic, and yard waste conserves natural resources, saves energy, saves land, and reduces pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the natural resource bases of various products. Distinguish between renewable and nonrenewable resources. Identify products that can be recycled. Differentiate between behaviors that help reduce trash and those that do not. Describe behaviors that help reduce trash and explain why reducing trash is good for the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use reusable rather than disposable products. Reuse items or give them away rather than throw them away. Recycle paper, metal, glass, and plastic items. Turn off electrical appliances and water faucets when they are not being used. Put trash in trash cans; do not litter.
<p>Grade 3 <i>Trashbot</i></p>  <p>Focus: Pollution Control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producing, distributing, consuming, and disposing of products all create waste. Waste goes into our water, onto our land, and into our air. Waste can and does pollute the environment. All of us can help create less pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate between the built environment and the natural environment. Identify ways that air, water, and soil can become polluted and describe the consequences of pollution. Describe behaviors that help minimize pollution and conserve natural resources and explain why they are good for the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk or bike or skate when possible instead of going in cars. Carpool or take public transportation when possible. Dispose of all trash, including hazardous wastes, properly. Create less waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling. Conserve energy, water, paper, and other resources.

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<p>Grade 4 <i>Waste Wise</i></p>  <p>Focus: Waste Reduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producing and consuming products creates solid, liquid, and airborne wastes. Solid waste is usually buried or burned; liquid waste goes down drains to treatment plants. Some waste is hazardous to people and the environment. Creating so much wastewater and trash can and does cause pollution and other problems. We need to reduce how much waste we produce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify methods and problems associated with waste disposal. Analyze how human activity creates wastewater, solid waste, and air emissions. Distinguish hazardous products from non-hazardous products. Identify behaviors that reduce waste and explain how they help the environment. Evaluate the costs and benefits of waste-reduction behaviors and develop arguments about which behaviors people should engage in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce, reuse, repair, and recycle. Buy products that have minimal packaging and that are made from recycled or recyclable materials. Avoid hazardous products when possible; dispose of hazardous waste safely. Conserve resources, using only what is needed. Keep the environment clean and litter-free.
<p>Grade 5 <i>Pollution Solutions</i></p>  <p>Focus: Pollution Control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of our environment is affected as more people use more resources. Water, soil, and air can become polluted in many ways. Burning fossil fuels creates major pollution problems, including smog, acid rain, and climate change. Government, industry, and individuals can all help reduce pollution in many ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify air, soil, and water pollution problems and determine what causes them. Analyze the effects of pollution on humans and the environment. Determine their own pollution causing behaviors. Identify ways that government, industry, and individuals can reduce pollution. Evaluate the costs and benefits of pollution-reducing behaviors and develop arguments about which behaviors people should engage in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use electricity and natural gas wisely. Carpool, bike, walk, skate, or use public transportation when possible. Avoid toxic products; use environmentally friendly products. Plant and nurture trees.
<p>Grades 6–7 <i>Our Eco Footprint</i></p>  <p>Focus: Sustainable Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The natural environment provides many benefits, e.g., habitat, water storage, fresh air, climate control, beauty, recreation. Humans develop the natural environment to meet many needs. Using natural resources unwisely can result in problems—loss of habitat, loss of biodiversity, pollution, food and water shortages. We need to conserve natural resources and use them in sustainable ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify benefits of natural, undeveloped environment. Describe causes for the overuse of natural resources. Analyze the problems caused by overusing natural resources. Identify ways to conserve natural resources. Evaluate the costs and benefits of conservation practices and develop arguments about which behaviors people should engage in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve energy, water, paper, plastic, and other resources. Buy and use products that help conserve natural resources. Participate in projects and groups that help the environment. Help preserve and protect wildlife and the natural environment.
<p>Grades 7–8 <i>Air Care</i></p>  <p>Focus: Air Quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth's atmosphere supports life. Polluting air emissions can be caused by natural sources or by humans. Burning fossil fuels is a major source of air pollution. Air pollution problems include smog, particulate pollution, acid rain, ozone depletion, ocean acidification, and climate change. Advances in technology and individuals' behaviors can help minimize harmful air emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct an argument supported by evidence for why clean air is important to people and the environment. Identify the sources of major air pollutants. Describe the effects of air pollution on humans and the environment. Identify new technologies and individual behaviors that can help reduce air pollution. Evaluate the costs and benefits of practices that reduce air pollution and develop arguments about which behaviors people should engage in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce use of fossil fuels (e.g., drive less, conserve energy, use alternative fuels). Use environmentally-friendly products. Promote clean air.