



Connection to the Arts: Song for the Environment

Eco Awareness Module

This hands-on activity provides students with the opportunity to further explore eco awareness. They will work in small groups or pairs to write a song about protecting the environment.

This offline hands-on activity can be completed after participation in the online Engage, Explore, and Explain.

Teacher objective: To reinforce the concept that all people should be eco aware and protect plants and animals in their habitats.

Student objective: By completion of this activity, students will be able to name ways to be eco aware with 80% accuracy.

Estimated time for activity: 20 minutes

Materials:

- paper
- pencils
- musical instruments

Procedure:

- 1 Review eco awareness with students.
- 2 Present students with the task of making a song, rap, or chant that will help teach others to be eco aware.
- 3 Circulate to help students brainstorm, if necessary.
- 4 Gather the class. Invite students to share their songs or cheers with the class.

Teacher background & discussion points:

Science is made up of concrete concepts that often utilize technical language. While it is important for students to understand the terminology, research has found that those who are able to draw a connection between the concepts and their own experiences develop greater understanding. By providing students with differentiated science experiences through the arts, we can foster their creativity and provide a better understanding of scientific concepts. This “Connection to the Arts” activity provides students with an innovative approach to science as they experience a variety of learning styles such as dance, music, art, poetry, and theater. Providing diverse opportunities for students to experience science will engage all students, including those who may respond more favorably to nontraditional instruction.

In this activity, students will use what they know about eco awareness to create a song or a cheer. Students will choose to include some of what they have learned about pollution, recycling, or invasive and endangered species. It is important that students understand that small changes can have a big effect on the environment. In fact, people need to be eco aware to protect the environment from dangers such as pollution and invasive species.

Use the following questions to emphasize the scientific connection to this art activity.



- What types of eco awareness did you include?
- Why do you think people need to know about it?
- How will your song or cheer help the world and animal/plant habitats?
- What did you like about this activity?

Review:

At the conclusion of the lesson, remember to review the following key points:

- Eco awareness means thinking about the environment.
- Pollution is leaving waste in the ground, water, or air.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle can help solve the problem of pollution.
- Invasive plants and animals can take away elements necessary for the survival of the plants and animals that naturally live in the habitat.
- Endangered animals and plants could become extinct if their needs are not met.

Accommodations:

If students have difficulty planning their song or cheer, a variety of accommodations can be employed.

- The teacher can aid in brainstorming topics.
- The teacher can suggest that students use new words for a familiar tune such as “Yankee Doodle,” “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” etc.
- The song or cheer can be completed at a center with an aide.
- The activity can be completed as a class rather than in groups or with partners.