



Quarrybrook
EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION CENTER

Program Title: Human Impacts on the Environment

Audience: 6th-8th grade students

Program Theme: We'll take an active approach to learning about the various ways in which humans affect the environment around them. At the end of each activity, we'll talk about potential solutions to these issues. It is our hope that we all come to recognize our responsibility to be stewards of the environment!

Program Goals: Students will engage in several activities which guide them to focus on the impact that we humans have on our surroundings. Students will discuss ways in which human activity could be less detrimental to the environment.

Next Generation/Common Core Connections:

Topic: MS-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity

Dimensions: MS-ESS3-C Human Impacts on Earth's Systems



Teachers are always welcome to make any classroom-connecting comments that contribute to student understanding.

Program Outline:

Activity 1: HOW DO HUMANS IMPACT THE EARTH? (5 min.)

Objective: Students will think about the many ways that humans affect the environment, both positively and negatively.

Intended Outcome: Students will have reflected on environmental issues which are caused by humans.

Activity 2: MIGRATORY BIRD HOPSCOTCH (25 min.) – This role-playing game puts students in the position of birds migrating south to their winter homes. Students will experience the hardships of the long, tiring journey to warmer climates. We'll then discuss how humans impact these migration journeys.

Objectives: Students will understand the importance of stop-over sites for migratory birds, and will be able to identify the causes for the disappearance of these areas.

Intended Outcomes: Students will be able to explain how humans have impacted the journey of migratory birds, and how we could minimize that impact.

Activity 3: THUMB SHELTERS (45 min.) – The students will be asked to build a tiny shelter within set boundaries. Will there be enough materials and space for everyone?

Objectives: Students will recognize that some resources are limited. With this knowledge, they will think about how we can share resources effectively.

Intended Outcome: Students will be able to relate this activity to real-life problems and suggest possible solutions.

Activity 4: RIVER PUZZLE (45 min.) – You have received a piece of riverfront property AND a million dollars! What plans do you have for your land plot? Students will work together to build a riverside community, and then we will look at the human impact involved.

Objective: Students will be able to recognize that many things contribute to the pollution of our water sources.

Intended Outcomes: Students will become more aware of pollution sources when looking at waterfront land usage. They will be able to come up with ideas on how to minimize our negative impacts upon water quality.

Conclusion/Wrap-up: The group will review by having a reflective discussion on the main points of the day. If there are other solutions to different issues caused by human impact, this will be a great time to share ideas.

Successful completion of this program will help support your students' proficiency in NGSS

Performance Expectations:

MS-ESS3-3 Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.