

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

Adjust activities to the student's age. Read the chapters to the very young. Paintings and other artwork can reflect the stories. Assign older children written, artistic and oral reports after they have read from their own books. Encourage the older children to do library and computer research and compile a report on local environmental issues. In order to inform others in the community about local issues and possible solutions, send well-researched and documented reports to local newspapers, TV stations and/or government leaders.

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Plant a Small Garden Plant flowers that attract birds or butterflies around a school, home, city park, or in containers. Volunteer with the local park department to coordinate planting days.

Clean up the Playground Clean up the playground of the school and make signs asking that others help keep the playground clean, or paint large metal garbage cans with an ecological theme.

Clean up a Local Park Organize a Saturday cleaning party with the cooperation of the local Parks and Recreation Department. Investigate to see if your community offers playground, stream, beach, trail, or marsh clean up activities.

Compile a Plant Inventory Make a report on the varieties and health of plants on the school grounds or in the local park. Use this report to attract and stimulate public interest in the continued improvement of public spaces.

Field Trips Visit zoos, aquariums, and natural history museums. Study animals and their environmental needs and relationships. Include docent talks, where possible.

Start Recycling Provide a lasting reminder about the importance of protecting the earth while improving the environment and raising environmental awareness.

Save Gas Whenever possible, walk, bike, use public transportation, or car pool. Keep track of the distance traveled per month. Calculate how much gasoline has been saved.

SUGGESTED INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Art Activities Illustrate some of Acting for Nature's stories. Ask younger students to draw some of the animals. Older students might draw and color their idea of a desert before and after the building of small dams, or build small three-dimensional models of a desert or a town with and without trees. A mural painted on a public wall will promote constant awareness about the environment.

Reading, Writing & Presentation Select a subject to research in the school or local public libraries. Assign students short oral or written reports about what they have read. Assign students a chapter of Acting for Nature to read and present as an oral report to the class. Conduct class discussions or environmental projects about events that the students have previously participated in or heard about in the local, national, and international news.

Geography Use a wall map to pinpoint parts of the world where Acting for Nature's stories take place. Students may also draw maps and point out where other environmental problems are occurring in the world.

Interview Interview local park managers, environmentalists, and rangers. Conduct these interviews in person, in the classroom or on site, or use telephone or e-mail. Consider recording the interviews for further classroom discussion.

Computer Activities Ask students to enter their own stories on the Action for Nature website at www.actionfornature.org. Use the computer to conduct searches on endangered species, or ongoing restoration efforts by the local park service and environmental groups. Assign group or individual reports.



Teacher resources are being prepared for each chapter in Action for Nature. View these and share your own ideas at www.actionfornature.org

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