

The Great School Clean-Up

Grade 1-5 Lesson Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to engage the learners in a school wide clean-up event. Learners will be asked to participate and reflect on the activity by creating a heightened awareness of community based environmental issues and how everyone should be good stewards of the Earth.

Duration

One 45-minute class period

Student Objectives

- Participate in a school wide clean-up.
- Engage in a classroom discussion focused on community based environmental issues and stewardship.
- Reflect on school wide clean-up activity through the use of group discussions and individual journaling.

Service Experience

Although this lesson contains a service project example, decisions about service plans and implementation should be made by students, as age appropriate.

Learners will be asked to participate in a school wide clean up of school grounds and buildings. They'll be meeting a constant need in their community as well as understanding the concept of stewardship. They will be given the opportunity to reflect on their service activity through whole group

discussion and independent journaling.

Materials

- Garbage bags
- Rubber gloves
- Rakes, brooms, and shovels
- Flowers
- Journals (optional)
- Digital camera (optional)

Instructional Procedures

Prior to the start of this lesson you may wish to ask learners to bring in rakes, shovels, gardening gloves, leaf and trash bags, and any other clean up tools that may be necessary for the success of the activity. You may want to send home a letter explaining the project a few days in advance. Meet students in a classroom discussion area to prepare for the clean-up event. classroom excitement for the activity.

“Today we are going to help celebrate our Earth by being good stewards and by working together to keep it beautiful! We all have a part to play and if we work together we can really make a difference.”

Begin by grouping learners in clean-up teams. Parent volunteers would be very beneficial for the clean-up teams. Assign each team to an area of the school or school grounds to focus their cleaning efforts. Offer suggestions for improvements.

Learners should clear the area of trash, wash off graffiti if necessary, and rake and/or sweep hallways or sidewalks. Learners may also choose to plant flowers with the given permission from the school. Be sure to address proper conduct during event.

Learners should demonstrate appropriate behaviors as ambassadors of the school.

Begin clean up: Allow time to complete event. Allow learners time to come together as a class to discuss their clean-up activities. Each group should share what they have done and how it made a difference to their school community.

Assessment

The assessment will be teacher observation of service activity and group discussions. Learners must also be able to answer the why, what, and should questions in their reflection journals.

School/Home Connection

Have students complete this interactive parent/student homework:

The parent letter should be sent home prior to the lesson in order to allow parent time to collect needed items and give them the opportunity to volunteer their time to help in the clean-up activity.

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Common Core Standard Suggestions

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.8
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

