

Lesson Plan: Story Time and Grocery Bag Project

Note To Educators:

If you would like a member of our Outreach Team to visit your school with this educational and fun program, please contact us by calling 311 or (516) 869-6311 or feel free to email OutreachTeam@NorthHempsteadNY.gov.

Grade Level: Elementary School (K-5)

Curriculum Connections: Language Arts, Fine Arts, History, & Science

Class Time: Approximately 45 Minutes

Program Available: Monday, March 5th through Friday, May 18th 2012 (We are available to do this program after that date, but May 18th is the last day for your students to qualify for our contest).

Lesson Components:

- 1.) Introduction
- 2.) A history of Earth Day
- 3.) Reading of an Earth Day story by a town official or elected official (when schedule permits)
- 4.) Class discussion
- 5.) Earth Day Message
- 6.) Grocery Bag Project

Teacher/Presenter Guide

Summary:

Earth Day is one of the Town's most cherished events of the year, and residents of all ages and from all communities participate in the celebration each year.

We hope you and your students will join us in celebrating Earth Day this year!

Objective:

To provide a history and understanding of Earth Day around the world and throughout the Town of North Hempstead through listening, verbal, and fine art skills.

How to Begin:

- 1.) Present to the students a brief history of Earth Day (see the last page of this Lesson Plan).
- 2.) Read a book with an Earth Day or environmental theme to the students.
- 3.) Start a brief class discussion on the theme of the book. (What were the main ideas of the story?).
- 4.) Earth Day message "**What on EARTH are we doing?**" /closing-explain to the students:
 - What are the three R's? (Reduce, Reuse & Recycle)
 - Why is it important for us to protect the Earth?
 - What are some ways that we can help protect the Earth?
- 5.) Lead the students in the Student Activity (see below)

Student Activity: Grocery Bag Project

Over the past five years, the Town of North Hempstead has gone into schools during the week of Earth Day and presented the "Earth Day Grocery Bag Project" to students. Students from all over the Town have participated in decorating paper bags that are borrowed from local supermarkets. These bags are then given back to the supermarket to be distributed to their customers. Thanks to the students their community gains a heightened awareness of the importance of our environment.

How to begin:

- a.) Hand out a paper grocery bag to each student and have them decorate the bags with pictures of the earth, environmental messages, etc. Be creative! **For safety reasons DO NOT allow students to write their last names on any bags.**
- b.) After the students are done explain to them that the bags will be reused by people living in their Town when they go grocery shopping. Explain that their artwork is helping their community by making others aware of the importance of our environment and Earth Day.
- c.) Thank the students again for the important work they have done for their community.

This program can be done for an individual class or we can combine classes. Last year we were able to reach out to entire schools over a one or two day period.

Please note, one student from each participating class will be chosen as a class winner and will be honored at our Annual Earth Day Awards Night that will take place in June.

If you have any questions please contact the Outreach Team at 311 or (516) 869-6311 or by email at OutreachTeam@NorthHempsteadNY.gov.



The History of Earth Day

This article submitted by Kim Moon

In 1963, former Senator Gaylord Nelson began to worry about our planet. (A senator is a person that the people of the United States have chosen to help make the laws.) Senator Nelson knew that our world was getting dirty and that many of our plants and animals were dying. He wondered why more people weren't trying to solve these problems. He talked to other lawmakers and to the President. They decided that the President would go around the country and tell people about these concerns. He did, but still not enough people were working on the problem.

Then, in 1969, Senator Nelson had another idea. He decided to have a special day to teach everyone about the things that needed changing in our environment. He wrote letters to all of the colleges and put a special article in Scholastic Magazine to tell them about the special day he had planned. (Most of the schools got this magazine and he knew that kids would help him.)

On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was held. People all over the country made promises to help the environment. Everyone got involved and since then, Earth Day has spread all over the planet. People all over the world know that there are problems we need to work on and this is our special day to look at the planet and see what needs changing. Isn't it great? One person had an idea and kept working until everyone began working together to solve it. See what happens when people care about our world?