

How Plants Change the World

An inquiry into the relationships between communities, environments, and natural resources and how we can share these responsibly with each other and other living things.



Big Ideas

Social Studies:

- There are cause and effect interactions among societies in the claim for natural resources.
- Countries fight over, negotiate, or cooperate for territory and access to natural resources.
- People's needs cause people to protect and/or destroy natural resources. In return the government will choose to create laws that either continue to protect or destroy those resources.

Technology:

- New technology is used for natural resource allocation and extraction.
- Communities and nations employ new technology to communicate and interact with each other.
- People invent technologies that can use plants to create energy.

Science:

- Energy is transferred through living organisms and is necessary for survival.
- Fossil fuels is a common resource to create energy but people are investigating ways to use renewable energies.
- Plants are important to our world and people need to work together to protect them.
- Plants have internal and external structures that serve functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.

Language Arts:

- Research is essential when you are trying to inform or persuade others through writing or speaking.
- I can express my opinion effectively using good organization, word choice, and well developed ideas.
- Persuasive and informative writing involves using facts and evidence to support one's opinion or ideas.
- We use language as a tool of communication to interact with others and to pass along research and views about controversial topics.

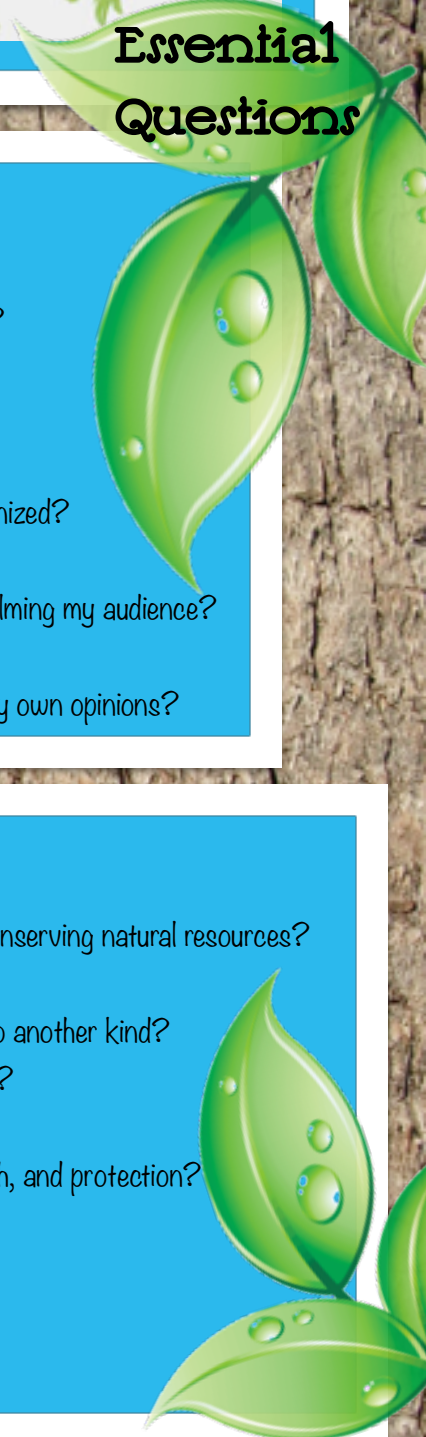
ESLRs

- Vitality allows individuals to seek new possibilities for natural resources.
- Sensitivity is an integral part of negotiation between communities and nations during conflict resolution.
- We need to show compassion toward planet Earth and appreciate the wealth of natural resources the Earth provides.
- An intelligent individual understands there is always a better solution than war.
- It takes a courageous mind to resolve conflicts.

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Essential Questions



Literacy

- How do I identify the topic and the author's viewpoint in persuasive writings?
- What are the essential parts in an argument?
- How do I read persuasive writings with a critical eye and evaluate if the author's viewpoint is valid?
- How do I organize my paragraphs to include viewpoint from both sides on a specific issue?
- How do I insert facts and statistics as evidence to support my statement in persuasive essay?
- How do I write a compelling topic sentence?
- What words are useful to make smooth transition between paragraphs to help my writing stay organized?
- How do I speak with conviction?
- How do I use facts and statistics effectively and appropriately in debate or speech without overwhelming my audience?
- How can I keep an open mind while listening to others share their thoughts and ideas?
- How can I use information that another person has shared to carry on a discussion and to form my own opinions?

Science & Social Studies

- Why do conflicts arise from the demand for natural resources?
- What are ways nations can share and protect natural resources? How can China play a role in conserving natural resources?
- How is fossil fuel used in our world?
- How is energy transferred from one living thing to another? How can energy be transformed into another kind?
- Why is renewable energy important and how can humans increase the use of this type of energy?
- What do living things need in order to survive?
- How are the structures in plants responsible for food production, support, water transport, growth, and protection?
- Why are plants beneficial to humans and how can humans protect these natural resources?
- How can we improve and sustain plants in order to help people and our Earth?
- How do organisms interact with one another?
- How do greenhouses create controlled environments for plants to thrive in?>