



## Post-Field Trip Lesson Plan: Choosing Conservation Actions for our Planet

Goal: Students will learn some of the challenges faced by animals on our planet today and ways in which they can help make a difference.

Objectives: Students will discover ways in which humans are changing our planet and identify ways in which animals are impacted.

Students will select and pledge to follow a simple conservation action through the end of the school year.

Science TEKS: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 3.5.A & 3.5.B

(5) Recurring themes and concepts. The student understands that recurring themes and concepts provide a framework for making connections across disciplines. The student is expected to:

(A) identify and use patterns to explain scientific phenomena or to design solutions;

(B) identify and investigate cause-and-effect relationships to explain scientific phenomena or analyze problems.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 4.5.A & 4.5.B

(5) Recurring themes and concepts. The student understands that recurring themes and concepts provide a framework for making connections across disciplines. The student is expected to:

(A) identify and use patterns to explain scientific phenomena or to design solutions;

(B) identify and investigate cause-and-effect relationships to explain scientific phenomena or analyze problems.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 5.5.A & 5.5.B

(5) Recurring themes and concepts. The student understands that recurring themes and concepts provide a framework for making connections across disciplines. The student is expected to:

- (A) identify and use patterns to explain scientific phenomena or to design solutions;
- (B) identify and investigate cause-and-effect relationships to explain scientific phenomena or analyze problems.

Materials:

- Large poster board
- Drawing paper
- Markers/crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue or other adhesive

Introduction/  
Background

1. Explain that even though animals have wonderful adaptations that help them to survive, they sometimes find themselves in danger. For example, animals need to watch out for their predators. Other times, animals get sick or injured.
2. Explain that animals sometimes find themselves in danger because of things that humans do. Ask the students how the following human activities might affect animals:
  - Deforestation (cutting down trees).  
*Possible answers: Animals eat the fruit, berries, flowers, and leaves that grow on trees. Animals also find shelter and make homes in trees.*
  - Litter and marine debris.  
*Possible answers: Animals can accidentally eat garbage thinking it is food, which can make them sick. Animals can also get tangled up in garbage.*
  - Spilling oil or other dangerous substances into the water.  
*Possible answers: Animals can get sick from living in water that is not clean. Oil can coat the fur or feathers of animals that live in the water, making it difficult for them to swim.*
3. Fortunately, there are ways in which we can help our planet and animals like the ones we saw at the Dallas World Aquarium! We are all able to help.
4. One way we can make a difference is to REDUCE, or use less of, something. For example, you can turn the lights off when you are not in a room. Or you can save water by turning the faucet off while you are

brushing your teeth. Using less energy helps our planet and the animals that live here.

5. Another way we can make a difference is to REUSE things you might usually throw away. For example, you could use a fabric bag instead of a plastic bag to carry your lunch. Or you could think of a creative way to reuse the box from the package that came in the mail. These items are easy to clean and can be reused over and over.

6. Another way we can make a difference is to RECYCLE. When we recycle, the items can be remade into new items. This way, they don't end up as garbage piling up. There are many things we can recycle. Can you think of a few? Ask the students to share their ideas.

7. All of these are ways we can help our planet by using less energy and making less garbage. Believe it or not, every time you do one of these things, you are helping animals and our planet. Even small things can make a difference.

Directions:

1. Ask the students to brainstorm ideas of simple things they could do to help animals and the planet. Write their ideas on the board.

*Possible examples: Turning off the light when not in the room, reusing boxes or containers that previously contained something else, turning water off while brushing teeth, collecting plastic bottles or cans for recycling, planting a tree, getting a tote to carry lunch instead of a plastic bag.*

2. Tell the students that they are going to choose one thing that they can do for the rest of the school year to help animals and the planet. Explain that this will be a pledge that they believe they can realistically do for the entire rest of the school year.

3. Distribute a "Conservation Pledge Worksheet" and a piece of scratch paper to each of the students. Allow them time to think about their pledge and then write it on the scratch paper. Once they are sure of their pledge, they can write it onto the worksheet.

4. Next, ask the students to draw a picture of the animal they liked best from their visit to the Dallas World Aquarium in the box to the right of the pledge.

Wrap-Up/  
Discussion

1. Hang the Conservation Pledge Worksheets in a prominent location in the classroom.
2. Help the students find success with their conservation pledges throughout the remainder of the school year. Celebrate their successes and remind them they are making a difference by helping animals and the planet.

Assessment:

Comprehension of concepts will be evaluated through student participation in class discussions and through the creation of the conservation pledge and commitment to it throughout the year.

Extension  
Activities:

Tin Can Pencil Cup Craft

For this craft, you will need 1 tin can (the kind canned beans or veggies come in) per student, as well as paint, colored yarn, glue, and a permanent marker.

Explain to the class that they will be making a special cup for pencils, pens, and markers. To do this, they will be reusing something that once contained something else. Reusing things helps our planet!

Have the students decorate their tin can with yarn (you can use clue and wind the yarn around the tin can) and/or paint. Encourage them to be creative when decorating their cans. Allow the cans to dry and write the student's name on the bottom of the can with a permanent marker.