



## Post-Field Trip Lesson Plan: Making a Difference for Animals and 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 work together to select and pledge to follow a simple conservation action through the end of the school year.

Science TEKS: Kindergarten – K.5.A & K.5.B

(5) Recurring themes and concepts. The student uses recurring themes and concepts to make connections across disciplines. The student is expected to:  
(A) identify and use patterns to describe phenomena or design solutions;  
(B) investigate and predict cause-and-effect relationships in science.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 1.5.A & 1.5.B

(5) Recurring themes and concepts. The student uses recurring themes and concepts to make connections across disciplines. The student is expected to:  
(A) identify and use patterns to describe phenomena or design solutions;  
(B) investigate and predict cause-and-effect relationships in science.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 2.5.A & 2.5.B

(5) Recurring themes and concepts. The student uses recurring themes and concepts to make connections across disciplines. The student is expected to:  
(A) identify and use patterns to describe phenomena or design solutions;  
(B) investigate and predict cause-and-effect relationships in science.

## 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:

- 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.*

- Garbage and littering.

*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 work together to choose one thing that the class can do for the rest of the school year to help animals and the planet. Explain that this will be a PLEDGE. A pledge is a promise to do your best.

3. Ask the students to look at the board and raise their hands to share any of the ideas listed there that would work within the classroom. Circle these ideas. Erase the ideas that were not circled.

4. Ask the students if they have any other ideas that would work in addition to the ones that were circled. If so, write those ideas on the board.

5. Ask the students to vote on the idea they like the best. Have them close their eyes and raise their hands when the one they choose is read aloud.

6. Narrow the choices to the two that received the most votes. Have the students vote for the one of the two they like best. Announce the winner.

7. Once the classroom conservation action is selected, explain that the class will pledge (or make a promise) to work together for the rest of the year to make it happen.

8. Explain to the students that their pledge will be written on a poster board that will be displayed in the classroom. Let them know that they will help decorate the poster with drawings of animals. This way, they can remember that they are helping animals through their actions.

9. Ask the students to draw one of their favorite animals from their visit to the Dallas World Aquarium and ask them to sign their drawings. Collect the drawings.

Wrap-Up/  
Discussion:

1. Write “We pledge to help animals and our planet by” and then add the conservation action on the poster. Attach the student drawings to the poster. Then hang the poster in the classroom.

2. Help the students find success with their conservation pledge 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 discussions and the selection of the classroom conservation action, as well as through participation in the classroom conservation pledge during the school year.

Extension  
Activity:

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.