



Reduce the Human Impact

By: Amanda Martin

Elementary school music teacher; M.A.Ed. In Curriculum and Instruction

Science
Grades 9–12



Introduction

Unfortunately, human actions negatively impact Earth's natural systems on a daily basis. To combat this problem, students will develop an action plan, complete with a catchy slogan, to reduce the human impact on natural systems.

Learning Objectives

Students will evaluate or refine a technological solution that reduces impacts of human activities on natural systems. ([Next Generation Science Standard HS-ESS3-4 Earth and Human Activity](#))

Materials Needed

- Journals/notebooks
- Notebook paper

Procedure

1. Ask students the following question: *What is a natural system?* Allow students 2-3 minutes to pair and share ideas. On the board, display a web chart. Ask students to share their ideas. For each correct student response, add it to the web chart. Students should be directed to copy the chart in their journals or notebooks.
2. Continuing to use student journals/notebooks, ask students to respond to the following question: *How have humans negatively affected natural systems?* (Examples: pollutants, agriculture, urban development, etc.) Students should make a list or another web chart to record their answers. Allow students 2-3 minutes to work alone. Then, ask students to participate in a “give one, get one” activity. Students will quickly move from classmate to classmate, review one another’s responses, and add items not previously on their lists. You may allow students to “give one, get one” for 3-5 minutes. When time is up, discuss student answers as a class.
3. Students will work individually to create a plan of action for improving the human impact on natural systems. Students should select one of the items from their lists/charts in step 2 of the lesson. Students must pretend that they work for an environmental company, and they are in charge of creating a new campaign with a slogan and action plan. The campaign slogan must be catchy, easy to remember, and on topic. The action plan must detail how natural systems can be improved and what steps need to be taken in order to do so. Student work will be graded using the rubric attached.

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Evaluation

Natural Systems Campaign Rubric			
	100%	50%	0%
The campaign slogan is to the point and catchy.			
The campaign's action plan includes steps and details on how it is to be implemented.			
The campaign fully covers how to reduce the human impact on natural systems.			
Student supports his/her action plan with evidence.			