



TOPIC LIST DETAILS

What Is Geography?

Includes an explanation of geography along with three main areas of geography and what is included in them. This is a good introduction to the topic of geography to a class on its own or as an introduction to any of the topics listed.

Earth, Our Planet

Covers in detail Earth's place in the universe along with how it compares to other planets, the make-up and purpose of the atmosphere and Earth's relationship with the sun.

World Geography

Incorporates the study of the seven continents and areas within these continents where basic to advanced map skills are taught; then applied by students to maps.

Bio Earth

This lesson is the study of biogeography that details biomes, their location around the globe and what determines the life in a biome area along with how each biome is different. This lesson is a good stand alone lesson but also can accompany other topics such as Earth, Our planet.

Being Green

Explains what it means to be green since it is a common word in society today and ways to be green. This can also be used in conjunction with other topics on the list or on its own.

Change

Teaches how land use has changed, the significance of these changes, the impact today from land use change and implications for the future.

Land Shape over Time and Space

This lesson is the study of geomorphology that looks at how the Earth's surface has changed over both time and space, including landforms and earthquakes. This lesson is designed to also complement Earth, Our Planet along with other topics on the list.

Rivers

Covers many interesting aspects of rivers, including type of rivers, dams, navigation, the river industry, recreation and anything else river related. This lesson can be taught individually or with a variety of listed topics.

Clean Air and Water

Discussion with students focused on the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act in relation to history, purpose and success or failure of each act.

Disappearing Plants and Animals

This lesson covers the history, purpose, success/failure of the Endangered Species Act along with lost species that we are unaware of and the future of plant and animal life on Earth. This lesson can be done as a stand alone lesson but also complements BioEarth.



Earth Is Hot

Details global warming, how it happens, why it is happening and different viewpoints and facts are presented to help create an interesting discussion to allow students to determine where they stand on the issue of global warming since it is a hot topic today. Depending on time allotted, for junior high students through college age, the viewing of the documentary An Inconvenient Truth will soon be available to include in this lesson.

Earth's Resources

Explains natural resources provided to humans by the Earth and how these resources are used for non-renewable and renewable energy. This also can include an extended focus on just oil and be tied into the topic of Environmental Economics.

Water, Water Everywhere, Or Is There?

This lesson teaches the hydrologic cycle, water resource use and water that is available for human consumption along with hydro ecologies and examples of how to conserve water and reduce usage. This lesson is easily linked to Environmental Economics or it can be taught individually.

Environmental Economics

Includes many topics related to the environment and how they impact the economy along with how to put a monetary value on non-material items such as nature. More detailed explanation of oil and the economy, tradable pollution permits, renewable and non-renewable natural resources are included in this topic. Time allotted depends on what is covered and how much detail is taught.

Environmental History

Covers the emergence of awareness of nature, when the awareness became mainstream and it's impact today. For high school age students to college age students this could include various book topics. Please see the enclosed list for more information.

How Earth Helps Us

Details what ecosystem services are and why they are important to us. This can be done as an individual topic but is also great to include with other topics on the list such as Environmental Economics, Earth's Resources, Rivers, Wacky wetlands and other topics.

Farming's Future, Is It Endangered?

Explains the history of the farmland preservation movement, the importance of farmland preservation, farmer perspectives, ways farmland is protected and the future of farming in the U.S.



Go Organic

Includes an explanation of organic farming, how it helps the land and farmer, why people are choosing to buy organic products and why they cost more. This lesson also includes the sampling of organic food at the end of it and an eco friendly gift bag of organic products and food for a well behaved student to win and take home.

Depending on time given for older students a documentary movie is included in this lesson on organic farming. A discussion of the movie would follow with student comments, thoughts and input.

GIS, GPS and Remote Sensing, What?

Teaches what GIS is, what GPS is, what remote sensing is, the beginnings of the technology, today's uses for it along with a demonstration.

Live an Earth Friendly Life

This lesson details sustainable living and how to be more environmentally conscious in everyday life choices. This lesson is a great mini lesson or it can be included with Go Organic and/or Being Green.

Love Cannel

Uses the Love Cannel incident as an example of environmental damage by humans, by giving details of its history, complications in the New York area, what happened and Love Cannel today. This is a great stand alone mini lesson to stimulate thought about the environment, consequences and impact of human action.

Mass Movement

Looks at types of land movement such as mud slides, details slow and fast movement, where the movement occurs and why it is important along with damage caused from mass movement and questions if humans help speed up the process of movement.

Movie choices

Gives the option of showing a documentary movie on its own or including it in the above lessons, either way a discussion will follow to help the students understand the major points, why they are important and what the students believe based on what was heard and seen in the movie.

Population

Covers where the major populations of the Earth are, issues related to population and the explanation of population pyramids.

Recycle It

Incorporates the basics of recycling, non-conventional recycling of items, landfill information and uses recycling activities with students to emphasize points brought out in the PowerPoint and discussion.

Solid Waste

Looks at the solid waste created by industry, including hazardous waste and what is being done with it, the impact of it and the future.

Urbanization

This lesson details the cityward movement after WWII, what has happened as a result and where we are today along with the future of cities.



Variety of Books

Gives the choice of several books for children, high school age students and college age students that relate to environmental topics. Books will be read and discussed as a group in stages, time to complete this is dependent on book length. Children's books can be divided in parts and include activities after each section to reinforce what is being read. Activities for older students may accompany the book as well if requested. Student copies are not provided.

Wacky Wetlands

Explains what a wetland area is, why wetland areas are important. This lesson includes details along with pictures and details about seven out of the eight federally protected wetlands in the State of Illinois along with other areas considered wetlands throughout Illinois. Also, a detailed presentation on Heron Pond and the Cache River area can be given along with a possible field trip to the Cache River Wetland Center and/or Heron Pond.

Weathering, Not Weather

Details the weathering processes and how certain areas such as caves were formed as a result of weathering.