

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

*Clean Up New Zealand Week (15-21 September 2003) Supplementary Classroom Lesson
Extension Activities for the Reduce Your Rubbish Clean Schools Challenge*

Curriculum: Social Studies and Science

Social Studies Strand: Place and the Environment

Learning Intentions: (Achievement Objectives)

- Understanding how people's actions can effect the quality of the environment
- Understanding how people's direct experiences of the environment can affect people's perception of a place.

Science Strand: Making Sense of Planet Earth and Beyond

Learning Intentions: (Achievement Objectives)

- Investigate easily observable features of the school and local environment and assess how the features are affected by people.
- Being able to justify and communicate how and why people should take pride in and improve the natural environment.

Skills Used and Developed:

- Information Skills • Communication Skills

Further Curriculum Links: The Arts, Technology

- Take photographs both close up and wide view to record evidence of any problem.
- What are the top 10 litter enemies the students found?
- Is there any relationship between the use of the site and the type of litter found?
- Is the amount of litter found directly related to the popularity of the site?



WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Have students speculate on the reasons people litter rather than recycle. Do they think people are aware there is a problem?
 - Tell students that photographic evidence is important as many people will not believe the extent of the problem.
 - Challenge the class to come up with ideas to:
 - make the school and local community aware of any litter problem the students have found
 - plan a programme to develop environmental pride.
- Examples could include:
- letters and photographs to local community newspapers to raise community awareness
 - photographic and actual display of litter collected at a local shopping centre or at the school
 - design and get personal anti litter pledges from other students and family members to increase awareness.
 - setting a practical example to the community by being seen taking part in and organising regular clean-ups
- Introduce the idea that 'Clean Up New Zealand' should be a year round and on-going programme. Brainstorm and implement strategies which will keep this in the 'minds eye' of your district.

THINKING BEYOND OUR SCHOOL

- Discuss why tourism is important to New Zealand, eg
 - brings in millions of dollars into our economy
 - provides thousands of jobs for New Zealanders
- Do the students know of any friends or family members who have connections with the tourist industry?
- Older students can brainstorm and map the flow-on effects for employment under headings such as:
 - transport, accommodation, tourist ventures, food ...
- What do the students know about how New Zealand is promoted overseas as a tourist destination, eg
 - clean and green
 - 100% Pure New Zealand
- List :
 - the recreational facilities and activities of the district
 - all the local scenic attractions of the school district.
- Why, how and by whom will these facilities be used?
- Are the students aware of any litter problem at any of these places or do they just not notice it any more?

WHAT'S THE STATE OF PLAY

- Groups should carry out a series of visits to these places and view them 'through the eyes of a tourist'.
- Do they portray the clean green and 100% pure image we are trying to promote?
- Using tally sheets, students note both the amount and type of litter.
- List under appropriate headings, eg: plastic bottles; cans; fast food wrappers; glass ...

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Ability to appreciate the importance and uses of recreational and tourist facilities to the local district through giving promotional talks and promoting the ideas to others.
- Being able to develop strategies in promoting environmental pride and changing people's behaviour though planning litter awareness and minimisation programmes as part of a group and/or class project.
- Communicating to other students and community members that their actions can improve peoples perception of their community through designing and implementing regular and on-going anti litter promotions.