

# REDUCE YOUR IMPACT TEAM CHALLENGE



**Time:** 4-5 class periods

## Instructional Goals:

- The students will use the PebbleGo Social Studies online database to research the impact humans have on their environment.
- The students will work with others to develop a plan to reduce human impact on a specific area of the environment.
- The students will work with others to communicate their plan to reduce human impact on a specific area of the environment.

## Materials/Resources:

- PebbleGo Social Studies online database
- Age-appropriate picture book with an environmental theme, such as Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax*
- Reduce Your Impact Team Challenge handout

## Procedures/Lesson Activities:

### Focus

1. Read aloud an age-appropriate picture book that contains an environmental theme. (Search your library catalog for such terms as "environmentalism," "recycle-fiction," "sustainable living," and "Earth day" for ideas.)

### Teach/Model

2. Discuss with students the environmental theme of the book. Explain that humans impact the environment in many different ways. Brainstorm with the class ways humans impact the environment.
3. Ask students if there are things we do to make our lives easier, but that often hurt the environment. Write down student ideas for all to see. Examples may include drinking bottled water packaged in disposable plastic bottles; taking long, hot showers in the winter; and, leaving game players powered on while going to eat dinner in order to continue your game later.
4. Tell students you are challenging them to develop a plan to lessen human impact on the environment. Explain that this is a team challenge. Either assign teams or allow students to choose their own teams.

## Guided Practice



5. Explain that each team will need to identify one specific way humans impact the environment. Each team will then need to develop a plan to help lessen the human impact and communicate the plan to others in the school community.
6. Show students how to navigate to PebbleGo Social Studies and locate the articles on helping the environment. The following articles are located under People and the Environment > Helping the Environment:
  - › Caring for Nature
  - › Cleaning Up Litter
  - › Reusing and Recycling
  - › Saving Energy
  - › Saving Water
7. Demonstrate the PebbleGo read aloud feature. Show students how to click on a bold word in order to hear its definition.
8. Read through the Reduce Your Impact Team Challenge handout with students. Review the steps to ensure each group understands the process they will go through to: identify a way humans impact the environment; develop a plan to help lessen human impact; and communicate with others how they can help lessen human impact on the environment.

## Independent Practice

9. Teams work through the Reduce Your Impact Team Challenge handout using PebbleGo Social Studies articles in the Helping the Environment section for information and ideas.
10. Monitor team progress to ensure successful completion of the challenge.

## Closure

11. Help teams enact their plans. Students may create posters, short videos, or skits to help communicate their plans to reduce human impact on the environment. If possible, allow students to perform and/or display their plans for others in the school community.

# Reduce Your Impact Team Challenge



Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Identify one specific way humans impact the environment. Develop a plan to help lessen the human impact. Communicate your plan to others in our school community.

## Identify the Problem

What part of the environment is your team focusing on?

- Other Living Things
- Land
- Air
- Water

List two ways humans impact this part of the environment.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## Develop a Plan

How can we lessen human impact on this part of the environment?

\_\_\_\_\_

List one step people can take to help lessen human impact on this part of the environment.

\_\_\_\_\_

How will this step lessen human impact?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Communicate to Others

How will you communicate to others the environmental problem you have identified?

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How will you explain the one step others can take to help lessen their impact on this part of the environment?

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Put your plan into action.

Bibliography: \_\_\_\_\_

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