

Will our state survive the next 100 years?

Every state is uniquely great. From coastlines to mountains to rolling prairies, our landscape is diverse. In this project, students will become aware of the need for a sustainable world by focusing directly on their own state's sustainability. They will use their creativity to design a book about their state that informs readers how small changes can develop a more sustainable world. Finally, they'll publish their book and sell it for a charitable cause.

Imagine if thousands of kids just like yours were able to promote sustainable practices and become agents of change. What an incredible force for good!



Start
with why

Lesson 1: Why Sustainability Matters

Launch this project by playing the "Fish On!" game. Through card play, students will determine how many fish they can catch while still sustaining an amount that keeps the fish population going. **MATH SCIENCE**

Lesson 2: Explore Sustainability through Literature

Read aloud the book, *The Lorax*, then make a Venn Diagram and discuss the real-world problems that this book depicts. **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**



Think it
through

Lesson 3: "UNderstand" the Goals

Have fun teaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals through a game called, "Wear It, Share It." Then, end the activity by having students choose a focus for their page within the class book.

Lesson 4: Research and State Facts

Students' interest will deepen as they explore six UN Sustainable Development Goals in more detail. They will research their focus goal independently, then gather as a group to discuss the findings across all six goals.

SOCIAL STUDIES



Work it out

Lesson 5: Let's Get Creative!

Engage students in artful creation as they develop an infographic for their focus UN Sustainability Development Goal.

Lesson 6: Write it Out

Use real-life models to help your students understand how to craft powerful, moving nonfiction. Then, let them use their research—and their imaginations—to create an impactful class book about sustainability in your state.



Fix it up

Lesson 7: Revise Our Work

Help your kids think like authors and engineers by diving into their pages, revising, and editing them until they look polished and professional. **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING**



Share your
awesome

Lesson 8: Publish Our Work

Make your book a reality by using the wonders of modern technology to turn your students into published authors!

Suggested project time: **8 hours**





Math

NUMBER PATTERNS

As you play the “Fish On!” Card Game, explore number patterns by examining what happens to the number of fish as each generation passes. [CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.4.OA.C.5](#)

English Language Arts

THEME

Use your exploration of *The Lorax* to investigate the theme of literary works. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.2](#)

Science

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

When discussing sustainable development in your state, generate and compare multiple ways to reduce the environmental impact of human decisions.

[NGSS 4-ESS3-2](#)

Social Studies

TAKING INFORMED ACTION

Students discuss and debate different methods of addressing issues involving sustainable development. [NCSS D2.Civ.7.3-5](#)

Social Emotional Learning

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING AND RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

Students examine the impact their decisions have on other members of a group.

CASEL CORE COMPETENCIES

Not teaching these standards?

Go to [BlueAppleTeacher.org](#) for more content-connection options.



Kit Supplies

- Pre-wrap for Headbands
- Pom Poms
- Pencils
- Dry Erase Deck of Cards
- UN Sustainable Development Goal Cards

Online Resources

- Tragedy of the Commons ([YouTube 4:58](#))
- “Fish On!” Math Activity
- “Fish On!” Simulator
- “Wear It, Share It” Game
- Nonfiction Text Features
- And so much more!



Bring the World to Your Students

- Skype a Professor
- Meet and Tweet with the Kings of the Spring
- Learn from a Wildlife Biologist
- Invite the DNR
- Consult a Publishing Expert

Bring Your Students to the World

- Support the Scientist
- ‘Ello, Guv-nor!’
- Be Talk Show Worthy
- Meet the Press



Pen Pals Across the States

Swap your book with another class in a different state who is also doing the project. Have students share similarities and differences about sustainability within each state. Have students think about ways that could help their pen pal influence sustainability practices where they live.



Engagement Hooks

How can I increase student engagement with effective engagement hooks?

Connection and Rapport

How can I build connections and establish rapport with my students?

This is just the beginning!

Go online to access the complete project.



- Clear **learning targets** and **step-by-step instructions**
- Dozens of links to **supporting resources**
- **Mini-lessons** aligned to content standards
- **Videos and contact information** from industry experts
- **Ideas to collaborate** with other classrooms
- Practical, point-of-use **instructional strategies**
- Access to a grade-specific **Project Coach**

