SAVE THE EARTH: IT’S EVERYONE’S HOME!
LESSON 1: Grades K-3
EARTH IS “HOME SWEET HOME” FOR ALL CREATURES

Show Me Standards:

*Academic Goals*: 1.6, 1.8, 1.10, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7
*Knowledge Goals*: Comm Arts: 1, 4, 6; Science: 3, 4, 8; Social Studies: 5 & 7

Objectives:

1. Students will become more aware of the environment and the plants and animals around them.
2. Students will learn that littering is harmful for the environment and the animals.
3. Students will show respect for the earth and observe the difference they can make by picking up trash on the school grounds.

Materials:

- Watch
- Outdoor area
- Inflatable globe (possibly with pictures of plants and animals)
- Garbage bag (recycled and biodegradable)
- Paper
- Colored pencils, markers, paints, other art supplies

Method:

1. Begin this lesson outside surrounded by the earth! Ask the students to form a circle and sit on the ground. Ask them to close their eyes and picture their homes. Tell them to think of all the things they love about their homes and ask them to share their thoughts (sights, sounds, smells, family, feelings, etc.).
2. Pull out the inflatable globe and ask the students “What about the Earth?” The Earth is also our home because we live here. Ask them what they love about the earth. Then ask; “Is it only OUR home”? Who else lives here on earth and shares it with us? Plants and Animals!
3. Let’s do a fun exercise! Use the stopwatch to time them and give them three minutes to grab a buddy and quietly explore (a designated area) looking for sights and sounds of other creatures who share our earth. Look up, down, all around! Ask them not to touch anything. We don’t want to disturb the creatures or their homes.
4. Return to the circle when time is up and ask the students what they discovered. Snails or their trails? Birds or their nests? Ants or their hills? Rabbits or their footprints? Discuss their findings.
5. Did anyone find any trash? Who do you think left that? HUMANS!
6. Using the stop watch, give them two minutes to find as much trash as they can and bring it back to the group. (*Have the students alert you to any broken glass so you can pick it up.)*
7. Look at all the trash you have collected and thank them for helping to clean up the earth! Give yourselves a pat on the back! You are a friend to the earth today! Ask if they think it is fair to the animals that live here when we throw our trash on the ground. Discuss.
Call to Action:
Return to the classroom and have the students draw a picture of the earth (simply blue circle with green spots). Ask them to draw a picture of one of the animals they discovered today and write the following on the board so they can put it at the top of their poster. “Please put your trash where it belongs. Earth is my home too!” Display in high traffic areas.

Web sites: For recommended animal-related web sites visit www.apamo.org and choose “Animal Issues” from the left-side menu, then choose “Links” from the top of the page. Or click here to launch your browser and link directly to the list.
Teacher’s box: Use this worksheet to emphasize the importance of keeping our environment clean.

Name ________________________________________________________________

Picture-Perfect Pickup

Sometimes people throw garbage on the ground or in the water. They may not mean any harm. But litter is harmful to animals and the earth. For example, animals can choke on plastic bags. Rivers can become clogged with trash. When you see trash, pick it up in a flash! Clean up the park below. Circle everything that belongs in a trash can or recycling bin.

How many trash items did you find? Count them and write your number in this box. □

KIND Teacher/2001-2002