

Teaching News Is Elementary

October 6, 2016

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times print replica, computer or smart board, colored pens, pencils or crayons and paper

Article: “City Habitats: Transform your community to turn the tide on polluted runoff”

Pages: NIE Sponsored Content

Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2016

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.4

Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

Objective: Students will read an informational text in order to learn about rain gardens and how they can help the Puget Sound.

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

What is a rain garden? What do you know about stormwater? Where does water go when it rains?

Vocabulary:

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it's used in the sentence.

“Anatomy of a rain garden”

Anatomy: the science dealing with the form and structure of living organisms

“Rain gardens capture and clean polluted runoff from rooftops, driveways, and other **impervious surfaces.”**

Impervious: not allowing fluid to pass through

“Rain gardens are beauty. Rain gardens are color. Rain gardens are **serenity**. But more than anything, rain gardens are an example of nature doing exactly what it was intended to do.”

Serenity: the state of being calm, peaceful, and untroubled

“Test soil **drainage** at your proposed rain garden site!”

Drainage: the action or process of draining something

“Selected **native** plants or hardy **cultivators**”

Native: being the place or environment in which a person was born or a thing came into being

Cultivators: a person or thing that cultivates something

Journal Writing Prompts:

Follow the writing prompt on page 7, and write a love letter to your favorite tree, park or body of water.

Why do you love it? What do you love about it? What would life be like without it? Make sure you write a detailed and vivid description of the tree, park or body of water that you have chosen!

Discussion Questions:

Take a look at the quote discuss the following questions:

“Rain gardens capture and clean polluted runoff from rooftops, driveways, and other impervious surfaces”

What is the difference between a pervious surface and an impervious surface? Can you think of some examples of each? Have you ever seen a rain garden near where you live? What are some things that might drain into the Puget Sound when water runs off of impervious surfaces?

Small group discussion and activity:

Use the information throughout the supplement to create your own diagram of a rain garden. Draw out a blueprint. What kind of plants would you use? Where would you put it? What will the layout be? How will your rain garden help to

prevent pollution and stormwater runoff? Visit www.cityhabitats.org/resources to learn even more about building rain gardens.

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