

Teaching News Is Elementary

November 4, 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, pencils or pens, and paper

Article: “Be a Drain Ranger! Identify things you can do to help salmon by preventing stormwater pollution”

Pages: Newspapers In Education Sponsored Content, Page 4 and 5

Date: Sunday, October 30, 2016

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2

Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.7

Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

Objectives:

Students will read and recount details of an informational text about reducing stormwater pollution.

Students will conduct brief research on fundraiser and use their findings to plan their own fish friendly fundraiser.

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Review stormwater pollution/runoff. What is it? Why is it bad? (Check your answers against the definition on Page 2)

Vocabulary:

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

“Soaps that get into our creeks can dissolve the **protective** mucous layer on fish and natural oils in the gills, making fish more **susceptible** to diseases.”

Protective: to keep (someone or something) from being harmed, lost, etc.

Susceptible: likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing

“**Automotive** fluids cause environmental and safety **hazards**.”

Automotive: of, relating to, or concerned with motor vehicles

Hazards: a danger or risk

“Healthy soils lead to **robust** plants that are more **resistant** to disease and insects.”

Robust: strong and healthy

Resistant: able to withstand the action or effect of

Journal Writing Prompts:

Imagine that you are a fish. How do you feel about stormwater running into your home?

Discussion Questions:

Either on your own or as a class complete the matching activity on page 4 and 5:

“Stormwater flows directly to local streams, lakes and wetlands without treatment. See if you can match the places that water soaks in, runs off or flows on the picture.

Help protect water quality by making simple choices that prevent pollution.”

Review your answers. Why did you put your answers where you did? Have you or your family even done any of these things? What other things do you think you could do to prevent stormwater pollution? How could you encourage other people to reduce stormwater pollution?

Small group discussion and activity:

“Find a fish-friendly fundraiser. Instead of car washes, try the following ideas instead: partner with a local business to sell doughnuts, hold a clothing drive, have a bingo night or silent auction, or sell environmentally sustainable products. Or, sell commercial car wash coupons to raise funds, stay dry, and promote a fish-friendly car wash!”

- 1) Pretend your class needs to raise funds for something (or come up with an actual project to raise funds for).
- 2) On your own, conduct research about different types of fundraisers – brainstorm your own list of ten different types of fundraisers (you might want to include fundraisers you have participated in or heard about).
- 3) Share your list with the class to compile a class list of types of fundraisers. Which ones of these are fish friendly? Which ones are not? How do you know? Label the fundraisers of each type.
- 4) With a partner, choose one of the fish friendly fundraisers. Work together to create a list of steps that you and your classmates would need to take in order to execute this fundraiser. What would you need to do? Why? Who would do what? What would the time commitment be? Reflect on if you think this is an effective fundraiser or not.