

THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE

UNIT 1

Building Community

Lesson 11

Stewardship of Creation

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Lesson Overview

This lesson will introduce students to the Catholic Social Teaching, Stewardship of God's Creation.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Religious Education:

Gr. 4 - LS2.3: Identify and describe ways we are called as human beings to be responsible stewards who protect the environment and promote creation (i.e. natural ecological world in which we live) that has its origins in the creative will and purpose of God.

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Rights and Responsibilities
Care for God's Creation

The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations evident in this lesson include:

CGE 7: A Responsible Citizen

GUIDING QUESTIONS (coming out of the Big Idea)

Big Idea:

- Students will demonstrate their role as a responsible citizen through their stewardship and respect for God's creation.
-

Scripture Passages:

- Job 12:7-10, Colossians 1:16-17, Psalm 19

LEARNING GOALS

At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:

- Define what stewardship is, and why it is important to respect and care for God's creation.

Success Criteria, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the "look-fors") in relation to curriculum expectations.

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INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT	
Terminology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stewardship - Environmental Issue 	Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Quotes (<i>Appendix 1</i>)

MINDS ON <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a positive learning environment • Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences • Setting the context for learning 	
<p>Copy <i>Appendix 1</i>, Environmental Quotes, using a different piece of coloured paper for each of the 5 pages of the resource.</p> <p>Cut the quotes into strips and randomly distribute among students. (<i>There are 36 different quotes.</i>)</p> <p>Students will form groups by gathering with those who have the same coloured paper. Have students set quote aside for now.</p> <p>Whole Group Instruction- Survey Questions</p> <p>This activity is designed to set the context for the new learning that is about to come and to determine student background knowledge and learning attitudes. For each group, assign one student to be the scorekeeper and one student to be the reporter. Ask students the following series of questions. The scorekeeper from each group will take the group's scores and average them. The reporter will report the result to the large group when prompted by teacher.</p> <p>a) What do you know about environmental issues? <i>Have students rate themselves from:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Know Very Little-----10 Know Lot</p> <p>b) What importance do you place on understanding environmental issues in your life? <i>Have students rate themselves from:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Little Importance-----10 Very Important</p> <p>c) How open are you to learning more about environmental issues? <i>Have students rate themselves from:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Not Very -----10 Totally Open</p> <p>After results are reported, invite students to comment, noting patterns of background knowledge and attitudes.</p>	

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ACTION

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

Group Activity – Resource 1 Environmental Quotes

Have students refer now to their quote and read it over. Invite students, one at a time, to read the quote to their group and then share their understanding of the quote.

Once each student has had a chance to share their quote and their understanding, ask each group to discuss the quotes and then identify the emerging themes about the environment they see as common amongst their quotes. (*For example, what do the quotes say about the environment or about our role in being stewards of the environment?*)

Invite the reporter in the group to report out the commonalities to the large group when prompted by the teacher.

Teacher can record responses on black/smart board or chart paper.

CONSOLIDATION

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

Introduce the topic of Stewardship of God's Creation.

- Discuss what it means to be a steward (caretaker, protector, someone who looks after something) and make the point that we are called not only to be stewards of the earth, but stewards of one another.
- What actions can students take, at home, at school, and in the community, to demonstrate their stewardship?

APPENDIX 1

ENVIRONMENTAL QUOTES

Elizabeth Goudge (1900-1984)

Nothing living should ever be treated with contempt. Whatever it is that lives, a man, a tree, or a bird, should be touched gently, because the time is short. Civilization is another word for respect for life.

Kahlil Gibran

Trees are poems that earth writes upon the sky,
We fell them down and turn them into paper,
That we may record our emptiness.

David Suzuki

If we want to address global warming, along with the other environmental problems associated with our continued rush to burn our precious fossil fuels as quickly as possible, we must learn to use our resources more wisely, kick our addiction, and quickly start turning to sources of energy that have fewer negative impacts.

Pope Francis

Man is not in charge today; money is in charge, money rules. God our Father did not give the task of caring for the earth to money but to us, to men and women we have this task.

Pope John Paul II

Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty toward nature and the creator are an essential part of their faith.

Richard Feynman

Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her patterns, so each small piece of her fabric reveals the organization of the entire tapestry.

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Buckminster Fuller

Nature is trying very hard to make us succeed, but nature does not depend on us. We are not the only experiment.

Theodore Roosevelt

To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.

Aldo Leopold

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

Marya Mannes

The earth we abuse and the living things we kill will, in the end, take their revenge; for in exploiting their presence we are diminishing our future.

Albert Einstein

The joy of looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift.

Robert Green Ingersoll

In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments—there are consequences.

Orison Swett Marden

We make the world we live in and shape our own environment.

Lorraine Anderson

Nature has been for me, for as long as I remember, a source of solace, inspiration, venture, and delight; a home, a teacher, a companion.

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Bernoulli

Nature always tends to act in the simplest way.

Bhagavad Gita

I look upon all creatures equally; none are less dear to me and none more dear. But those who worship me with love live in me, and I come to life in them.

Luther Burbank

Nature's laws affirm instead of prohibit. If you violate her laws, you are your own prosecuting attorney, judge, jury, and hangman.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Everything in Nature contains all the powers of Nature. Everything is made of hidden stuff.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Nature goes her own way and all that to us seems an exception is really according to order.

William Law

All that is sweet, delightful, and amiable in this world, in the serenity of the air, the fineness of seasons, the joy of light, the melody of sounds, the beauty of colors, the fragrantcy of smells, the splendor of precious stones, is nothing else but Heaven breaking through the veil of this world, manifesting itself in such a degree and darting forth in such variety so much of its own nature.

Llewelyn Powys

No sight is more provocative of awe than is the night sky.

Gil Stern

Man is a complex being; he makes the deserts bloom and lakes die.

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Mahatma Gandhi

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way animals are treated.

Wendell Berry

To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival.

Marshall McLuhan

There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew.

Goethe

The world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers and cities; but to know someone here and there who thinks and feels with us, and though distant, is close to us in spirit - this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden.

Ricardo Levins Morales

If you give me a fish, you have fed me for a day. If you teach me to fish, then you have fed me until the river is contaminated or the shore line is seized for development. But if you teach me to organize, then whatever the challenge, I can join together with my peers and we will fashion our own solution.

Rachel Carson

I like to define biology as the history of the earth and all its life – past, present, and future.

Chief Seattle

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together ... all things connect.

Fools Crow, Ceremonial Chief of the Teton Sioux

The survival of the world depends upon our sharing what we have and working together. If we don't, the whole world will die. First the planet, and next the people.

Qwatsinas [Hereditary Chief Edward Moody], Nuxalk Nation

We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees.

Chief Luther Standing Bear, Lakota Sioux

The elders were wise. They knew that man's heart, away from nature, becomes hard; they knew that lack of respect for growing, living things, soon led to lack of respect for humans, too.

Ancient Indian Proverb

Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children.

Sioux Indian

Even sticks and stones have a spiritual essence, a manifestation of the mysterious power that fills the Universe.

Mourning Dove Salish, 1888-1936

..... everything on the earth has a purpose, every disease an herb to cure it, and every person a mission. This is the Indian theory of existence.

Wintu Woman, 19th Century

When we Indians kill meat, we eat it all up. When we dig roots, we make little holes. When we build houses, we make little holes. When we burn grass for grasshoppers, we don't ruin things. We shake down acorns and pine nuts. We don't chop down the trees. We only use dead wood.