

Our Green State

Synopsis of the Story

James, a grade school student, and his two friends, Donald and Charlotte, have an assignment in science class to pick a topic and find out more about it. The first part of the assignment is to ask two people what they know about it (in order to get the students to start thinking about their topic). Donald and Charlotte argue over the specifics and get into trouble with the recess teacher. They are asked to write about the argument from the other person's point of view. Meanwhile, Donald interviews his brother and sister about the topic he chooses, cars and the environment. They have opposing viewpoints. In class, the students look up more information, through books, the internet, and finding experts. An expert comes to class to talk to them about the subject, and Eric finds that he has a number of interesting conclusions formed from his research.

Character List

Eric – main character
Charlotte – friend of James
Donald – friend of James
Ms. Randall, Mrs. Bigby - teachers
Sarah - sister
Marcus - brother
Mr. Smith – engineer who visits class

Learning Goals--what skills and affects are promoted by your module?

Pollution, cars, and the environment
Conflict resolution
Reasoning behind finding sources

GLCE benchmarks addressed:

GRADE 3

Earth Science

Standard: Earth Systems

K-7 Standard E.ES: Develop an understanding of the warming of the Earth by the sun as the major source of energy for phenomenon on Earth and how the sun's warming relates to weather, climate, seasons, and the water cycle. Understand how human interaction and use of natural resources affects the environment.

- E.ES.E.4 Natural Resources- The supply of many natural resources is limited.

Humans have devised methods for extending their use of natural resources through recycling, reuse, and renewal.

- E.ES.03.43 Describe ways humans are protecting, extending, and restoring resources (recycle, reuse, reduce, renewal).

- E.ES.E.5 Human Impact- Humans depend on their natural and constructed

environment. Humans change environments in ways that are helpful or harmful for themselves and other organisms.

- E.ES.03.51 Describe ways humans are dependent on the natural environment (forests, water, clean air, earth materials) and constructed environments (homes, neighborhoods, shopping malls, factories, and industry).

- E.ES.03.52 Describe helpful or harmful effects of humans on the environment (garbage, habitat destruction, land management, renewable and non-renewable resources).

GRADE 4

Physical Science

Standard: Energy

K-7 Standard P.EN: Develop an understanding that there are many forms of energy (such as heat, light, sound, and electrical) and that energy is transferable by convection, conduction, or radiation. Understand energy can be in motion, called kinetic; or it can be stored, called potential. Develop an understanding that as temperature increases, more energy is added to a system. Understand nuclear reactions in the sun produce light and heat for the Earth.

- P.EN.E.1 Forms of Energy- Heat, electricity, light, and sound are forms of energy.

- P.EN.03.11 Identify light and sound as forms of energy.

- P.EN.04.12 Identify heat and electricity as forms of energy.

Life Sciences

Standard: Ecosystems

K-7 Standard L.EC: Develop an understanding of the interdependence of the variety of populations, communities and ecosystems, including those in the Great Lakes region. Develop an understanding of different types of interdependence and that biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) factors affect the balance of an ecosystem. Understand that all organisms cause changes, some detrimental and others beneficial, in the environment where they live.

- L.EC.E.1 Interactions- Organisms interact in various ways including providing food and shelter to one another. Some interactions are helpful: others are harmful to the organism and other organisms.

- L.EC.04.11 Identify organisms as part of a food chain or food web.

- L.EC.E.2 Changed Environment Effects- When the environment changes, some plants and animals survive to reproduce; others die or move to new locations.