

Climate Change in Colorado National Monument

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LESSON: Earth Science

GRADE LEVEL: First Grade

OBJECTIVE: Students will understand that what we do in our daily lives can impact the Earth's environment.

VOCABULARY: Earth Day

pollution

habitat

environment

warming

melt

endangered

STANDARDS:

Science 1.4 – describe natural process which change the earth's surface

Science 1.5 – recognize that humans are affected by natural events.

MATERIALS:

Book: *"Polar Bear, Why is Your World Melting?"* by Robert E. Wells

Book: *"Why Are the Ice Caps Melting? The Dangers of Global Warming"* by Anne Rockwell

12 X 18 Construction Paper

Crayons

Water colors

OVERVIEW: This particular lesson will link and bridge a past unit on "Arctic and Antarctica" to "Earth Day" and eventually to the "Habitat of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park" by explaining in simple terms the effects of the greenhouse effect and global warming. Students will conclude and value that people can do simple things: planting trees, riding bikes instead of driving, and buying non-packaged foods. Individuals can positively affect the earth's environment and help other living things with simple actions.

DAYS ONE AND TWO:

Teacher will read *"Polar Bears, Why is Your Earth Changing"* and *"Why Are the Ice Caps Melting?"* over a two-day span planned for the lesson. At the end of each reading, teacher and students will create a web focusing on important vocabulary and concepts presented in each book, leaving the webs as visual posters in the classroom. Students will use 12 X 18 white construction paper, crayons and watercolors to create a crayon-resist poster suggesting things each of us can do to help the earth.

Students will take posters home, re-teach parents, siblings, or guardians three things they've learned in the lesson about how we can help take care of our planet, and three things that are happening in the Arctic and Antarctica. Parents, siblings, or guardians will answer a brief response paper re-stating important ideas they've learned from the child in the home discussion.