

Going Green

This lesson focuses on our responsible actions as they relate to our environment. Students will learn about “going green” and will then brainstorm 3 ways they can change their behaviors to be more environmentally responsible.

Caring Sub-Concepts

Perseverance, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

Required Materials

- ❑ Basic Art Supplies
- ❑ Pack of Index Cards
- ❑ “Miss Fox’s Class Goes Green” by Eileen Spinelli

Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.

Lesson Objective

Students will be able to:

- Explain the concept of being green as a method to reduce waste.
- Identify ways children can be responsible for the environment through personal actions.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

How much water do you use at school? Do you think about it? This week, make a conscious effort to conserve where you can: check the bathrooms for running faucets, wash items together instead of one at a time, and report any running toilets to the janitorial staff. Every drop counts!

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Allow students to create only one Environmentally Responsible Card.
- Allow students to draw their ideas onto their cards.
- Work with students one-on-one to help them brainstorm personal ideas for going green if needed.



Share

5 minutes

We have worked very hard to become responsible citizens of our classroom, school, and community! Let’s review what **responsibility** means: *Being reliable to do the things that are expected or required of you.* Let’s also review what **perseverance** means: trying our best, even when it gets hard, until we reach our goal.

Now let’s share how we have shown responsibility and perseverance so far this week:

- How have you used perseverance and responsibility to complete your homework and turn it in on time?
- What is one responsible choice you made yesterday on the playground? At specials?

- What is one way you were able to persevere through a challenge and reach a goal?
- How were you able to be responsible for our school last week?

All of these choices are ways we can be responsible and show kindness towards ourselves, others, and our environment!



Inspire

Environmental Responsibility

10-15 minutes

We have talked about responsibility and our choices here at school and at home. Our choices affect ourselves, others, and even the world around us! That's right; the choices we make can help or hurt our **environment**.

Ask:

What is the environment?

Invite student response. *Explain that it is the world around us: nature, animals, plants, water, etc.*

Read Aloud: "Miss Fox's Class Goes Green" by Eileen Spinelli

Read Aloud Link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-UNKPdwpTg> (7 min)

This story shows how our choices affect the environment and how we can choose responsibly to make a difference.

Ask:

- What 3 ideas did Miss Fox list as ways to go green?
- Name 3 different ways the children were able to go green.



Empower

20 minutes

Explain:

The class in our story worked together to go green and make responsible choices to clean up our environment, use less energy, and conserve energy. Now it's our turn! Let's review the 3 ideas Miss Fox listed:

1. Use less stuff (recycle)
2. Use less energy
3. Use less water

Your challenge today is to come up with one way you can accomplish each of these goals to help our environment. You will receive three index cards. On the blank side, write one of the three goals. On the other side of that card, brainstorm one way you can accomplish that goal.

Example: Use less stuff (recycle): "I will fill up my water bottle everyday before school instead of grabbing a new one from home."

- Allow 10-15 minutes for students to write/draw their 3 cards.
- Encourage students to decorate their cards if time allows.

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Reflect

5 minutes

Reconvene at the end of the lesson and ask for volunteers to share one of their environmentally responsible ideas.

Ask:

- How will you accomplish this goal?
- What difficulties might you encounter as you try to go green? (temptation, laziness, no green options, etc.)

Every person has a responsibility to our environment, even young people like you! You can choose to help clean your neighborhood, close the door to conserve heat, or even decrease your water usage by taking shorter showers. Every responsible and kind choice helps protect our environment and keeps our world just a little bit cleaner than it was before!



Extension Ideas

- As a class, brainstorm ideas to help your school go green. One idea might be to start (or increase!) a recycling program. Start simple and work your way and invite other classes to join you.
- Create a “Mr/Mrs _____’s Class is Going Green!” bulletin board and tack up each environmentally responsible card to the board as students share their successes.
- Start a “Go Green” index card box for students to check out each Friday to try a new “Go Green” idea at home over the weekend!
- At-Home Extension: Send home 3 blank cards and invite families to complete this activity using their home and neighborhood as the focus for their green choices!



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AS A RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL
AND EMOTIONAL
LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL’s SElect Program and is included in the CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs.

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL’s criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL’s highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>