



Character Education



Kindness

High School - December, 2005

Dear Teachers:

Kindness is a trait that should be promoted throughout the year, but is especially important during the holiday season. There are numerous ways in which we can express **kindness** to friends, neighbors, and the community. It is also important to remember that our roles include being **kind** to the environment in which we live. This month's newsletter offers writing exercises, research projects, and an activity for the development of a short skit.

Activity 1: To Drill or Not to Drill?

Subjects: Science, Social Studies, Math, Language Arts

Oil is the fuel that powers the world. Obtaining that oil has a big impact on the surrounding environment. This activity has students deciding whether the benefits of procuring Alaskan oil are worth the potential environmental impact. First have students find out about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) oil-drilling project by reading pro and con discussions on oil reserve tapping in the ANWR. Next have them use the Internet to find out where most of the world's oil comes from now. While doing so, have them search for a prediction of how much oil will be found in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and compare that amount to the oil production found elsewhere. In addition, have them research the potential of oil drilling near Florida, for example in the Gulf Coast and in the Atlantic, including the Atlantic drilling ban.

Using this information, students should then create a pie-chart graph or bar graph to display their findings on world oil production. After studying the discussion describing the environmental impacts of the drilling and the justifications for the project, and using their own research, students should decide whether they support or oppose the ANWR oil-drilling project. Have students write a position paper stating whether they think drilling for oil there is justified and include their graphs in the paper.

Source: www.pbs.org/teachersource/thismonth/dec03/index1.shtml

Online Resources:

NewsHour Online: Drilling in Alaska: www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/environment/jan-june02/alaska_4-17.html

Greatest Oil Reserves by Country: www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0872964.html

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: A Special Report: <http://arcticcircle.uconn.edu/ANWR/>

EPA - In the News - Gulf Drilling: www.epa.gov/region6/6xa/home112601.htm



Activity 2: Personal Transportation Activity

Remember that we have transportation choices, and some of those choices can positively affect our air quality. Have students keep a seven day Personal Transportation Chart (see page 2). They are to collect data on the miles that they travel and the modes of transportation they use. They should make an entry for every trip they make away from home. After the seven days, divide the class into four groups and have the groups calculate the following:

1. What mode of transportation was used most often by the members of your team?
2. List all the modes of transportation used by your team.
3. Analyze your teams' transportation use by answering these questions:
 - How many miles did you personally travel overall? _____ miles
 - How many miles did members of your team travel overall? _____ auto miles
 - How many miles did members of your team travel overall? _____ total miles
 - How many miles did members of your team travel overall? _____ total auto miles
 - What was the average number of auto miles traveled by members of your team?
_____ total auto miles (divided by) _____ people in team = _____ miles/person
 - What was the average number of auto miles traveled by members of your team?
_____ total auto miles (divided by) _____ people in team = _____ auto miles/person
 - What was the total amount of air pollution produced by your personal auto travel?
(remember that for every 25 miles we drive puts one pound of pollution in the air)
_____ auto miles (divided by) 25 (miles/pound) = _____ pounds of pollution

Personal Transportation Chart

Date	Purpose of Travel	Distance	*Auto	**Auto	Bus	Walk	Bike	Other
Totals								

*Indicates an auto with 1 person **Indicates a carpool

Activity 3: What is all of the “drama” about kindness?

A great way to be creative about telling the story of “kindness to the environment” is to write your own story or play, and share it with others. Have students work in small groups to brainstorm and create stories about people expressing kindness to the environment. Themes to suggest could include “random acts of kindness,” “kindness to animals,” “kindness through choosing alternative modes of transportation,” or “kindness through recycling.” Then, have them write down the story as it would be acted out by the different characters involved. Students could choose either to share their plays by acting out short skits, or by trading the stories with other classmates.

Online Resources for Playwriting:

www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/artweb/playwriting/screentips.html
writingcenter.usu.edu/documents/10playwritingtips.pdf



Special Award Information: Broward County Science Fair 2006

Alternative Fuel Special Award

Broward County would like to offer high school students participating in the Broward County Science Fair the opportunity to compete for the *Alternative Fuel Special Award*. The special award will be given to students who demonstrate the following:

1. An understanding of how to use systematic, scientific processes to solve problems and reach conclusions.
Standard 1, Benchmark SC.H.1.3.2
2. An understanding of the need for protection of the natural systems on Earth.
Standard 2, Benchmark SC.D.2.3.1
3. An understanding of renewable vs. nonrenewable energy sources, and the importance of informed use of natural resources.
Standard 2, Benchmark SC.D.2.3.1
4. A basic understanding of alternative fuels and their benefits.

A representative from the Broward County Environmental Protection Department will be present at the Broward County Science Fair to evaluate projects that meet the above criteria. The prize will be awarded at the Broward County Science Fair Awards Ceremony. The student prize pack includes four tickets to Walt Disney World, a trophy to honor the student's achievement, and a school plaque.

If you have any questions regarding these activities or have any comments, call 954-519-1220 or e-mail airoutreach@broward.org. You can also visit our website at www.broward.org/kids/environment.htm.