



**SUSTAINABLE TEACHING CURRICULUM
LESSON PLAN**

Ecosystems

Primary Subject- Science, Social Studies, Music

Objectives:

- Students will learn about how all inhabitants of the Earth are connected and rely on one another.
- Students will learn how destroying a single element of an ecosystem can have disastrous affects on the rest of it.

Materials:

- journals that will be used for all “sustainable” activities
- pencil or something to write/ draw with

Introduction:

1. Anticipatory Set
 - “What is an ecosystem?”
 - Ecosystem: all of the living and nonliving things in a natural area.
2. Purpose: To familiarize students with ecosystems

Major Instructional Sequence:

- Relate a school community to an ecosystem
 - In a school there are students, teachers, cooks, custodians, etc.
 - Ask students what each person contributes to the community.
 - Ask students what people need from each other.
 - Ask students what each person gives to another.
 - Tell students this is a lot like how an ecosystem works
 - Have students take 5 to 10 minutes to observe in their journals
- Say there are many different ecosystems also called habitats
 - Give examples: the Red Wood Forest, Ocean, Desert
 - Ask what lives in forest? (trees, bugs, raccoons, birds etc.)
- Have students split up into groups of two or three with their journals
 - have students draw their favorite animal in their natural habitat or ecosystem

- have students write or draw another organism (living thing) that their animal depends on for survival
 - example: trees provide hummingbirds with shelter and safety from larger predator birds
- have students write or draw another organism that depends on their animal for survival
 - example: hummingbirds help to pollinate flowers

Concluding Sequence:

- Describe to the students how all living things rely on one another
- Teach the students the song This Land is Your Land
 - Audio: <http://www.smart-central.com/USA/thisland.html>

This Land is Your Land Lyrics:

Chorus:

This land is your land, this land is my land
 From California, to the New York Island
 From the redwood forest, to the gulf steam waters
 This land was made for you and me

As I was walking that ribbon of highway
 I saw above me that endless skyway
 I saw bellow me a golden valley
 This land was made for you and me

Chorus

I've roamed and rambled and I've followed my footsteps
 To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
 And all around me a voice was sounding
 This land was made for you and me

Chorus

The sun comes shining as I was strolling
 The wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling
 This land mad for you and me

Chorus

As I was walkin' - I saw a sign there
And that sign said- no tress passin'
But on the other....it didn't say nothin'!
Now that side was made for you and me!

Chorus

In the squares of the city- In the shadow of the steeple
Near the relief office- I see my people
And some are grumblin' and some are wonderin'
If this land is still made for you and me.

Chorus (2X)

Background:

As humans begin to destroy the environment, we are also destroying the habitat of many species (even causing some to go extinct). Because each species is part of an ecosystem, by destroying one species a chain reaction occurs and many other animals are harmed. This lesson plan is designed to teach students about the interconnection of species, and why protecting animals and the environment is so important. The purpose of singing this Land is Your Land is to demonstrate how we must share the land with everyone including the animals that inhabit the earth.

Vocabulary:

Ecosystem: all of the living and nonliving things in a natural area.