ECO BOYS AND GIRLS®

“Join Us,
Caring For The Earth
And Each Other

Make Every Day,
Earth Day!”

Eco Boys and Girls®
Ernie Earth®, Lulu Love®, Patsy Peace®, Ray Recycle®, and Sammy Sun®
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ECO BOYS AND GIRLS®
Curriculum Guide

CELEBRATE THE EARTH

with

the

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Introduction to the Eco Boys and Girls Curriculum Guide

We live in a society that is concerned about the environment and the well being of its inhabitants. This concern has been voiced for the past forty years in the commemoration of Earth Day. This year and for years to come, it is essential to provide the opportunity for young children and their families to become involved in caring for the earth and each other.

The Eco Boys and Girls characters, created by Maria Snyder, are 5 animated characters that young children who are in PreK to Grade 3 can view as friends. They teach them the value of respecting their environment by protecting natural resources and conservation and respecting the people and other living things who inhabit the earth. Maria Snyder explains the reasons why she undertook this endeavor, “I created these Eco Characters to give youth today “Eco-Heroes” to believe in, to have fun with and learn from. Children are aware, involved, caring and connected to the earth and each other. I wanted to engage young people, empower them to take ownership of the world we live in and enjoy learning about the environment and explore creative new ways to live in harmony with the planet and each other.”

Young children are inquisitive and eager to learn. By providing them with varied experiences across all learning domains and models for caring for the earth and each other, they will begin their journey to become environmentally responsible adults.

The lesson plans and activity sheets introduce youth to the Eco Boys and Girls characters and their mission to care for the earth and each other. Activity sheets encourage educating with WeExplore™, entertaining with WeCreate™ and taking action with WeTakeAction™. The letter to administrators, teachers, parents and guardians extends the learning through exploration of community resources.
Dear Administrators and Teachers,

Happy Earth Day! This year Earth Day marks its 43rd anniversary and will be commemorated on April 22, 2013. Throughout the year we hope you will be teaching and learning ways to care for the earth and each other.

This year we will introduce the children to characters whose mission is to care for and respect the earth and each other in various ways. The characters are Ernie Earth, Lulu Love, Patsy Peace, Ray Recycle, and Sammy Sun and each has a distinctive personality and is goal oriented in saving the planet. Young children (and their families) can easily relate to these characters and their missions.

The Eco Boys and Girls characters were created by Maria Snyder to help children learn about the environment and what they can do to care for the earth and each other, not just one day a year, but EVERY DAY. The activities that the children will be doing all include components of the Common Core Language Arts and Math Standards. These activities will be fun, challenging and informative.

We’d love you to be an integral part of our learning and teaching experience. Our mission is to educate (WeExplore™) and entertain (WeCreate™), while taking action (WeTakeAction™). We encourage you and your students to participate in an Earth Day community activity and learn more about caring for the earth and how your community can care for the earth and each other. Together we can make EVERY DAY an Earth Day.

Thank you for your continued involvement in your student’s learning.

Sincerely,

Eco Boys and Girls®

Ernie Earth®, Lulu Love®, Patsy Peace®, Ray Recycle®, and Sammy Sun®
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy Earth Day! This year Earth Day marks its 43rd anniversary and will be commemorated on April 22, 2013. Throughout the year we will be learning ways to care for the earth and each other. This year I will introduce the children to characters whose mission is to care for and respect the earth in various ways. The characters are Ernie Earth, Lulu Love, Patsy Peace, Ray Recycle, and Sammy Sun and each has a distinctive personality and is goal oriented in saving the planet. Young children (and their families) can easily relate to these characters and their missions.

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We’d love you to be an integral part of our learning experience. Our mission is to educate (WeExplore™) and entertain (WeCreate™), while taking action (WeTakeAction™). I hope that you and your children participate in an Earth Day community activity and learn more about caring for the earth and how our community can care for the earth and each other. Together we can make EVERY DAY an Earth Day.

If you have questions, comments, or ideas please share them with me.

Thank you for your continued involvement in your child’s learning.

Sincerely,

(Teacher)
ECO BOYS AND GIRLS®
Character Descriptions

STORYBOARDS
Ernie Earth character is a serious, yet fun lovin’ kinda feet on the ground guy, who is really looking forward to discovering and taking care of his whole self - the planet. He ventures inward and takes along his friends to explore.

His **mission** is to preserve the natural world and its ecosystem.
Lulu Love character is a true sweetheart, with elongated limbs that reach out to all. She is always thinking of everyone else and is usually happy because she comes from a place of love, deep in her heart. She shares her goodness with a big smile with everyone she meets.

Her **mission** is to demonstrate loving relationships between humans and all things.
Patsy Peace character is a jubilant, big wide-eyed, yellow and pink, little flying burst of peace. She travels the world over with her super-hero buddies, to bring peace into the hearts of everyone, everywhere she goes.

Her mission is to solve conflicts so that humans, animals and things can exist in peaceful ways.
Ray Recycle character is quite a dynamic, fast paced, action hero guy. He is a long distance runner, carrying out his message of recycling.

His mission is to show people ways to reuse and recycle.
Sammy Sun character is a hot dude, always sporting sunglasses. He is excitable and passionate about how to best conserve energy and other natural resources.

His mission is to spread the word about conservation and protecting natural resources.
LESSON PLAN #1

CARING FOR THE EARTH AND EACH OTHER. EVERY DAY.

Subjects: Science, Language Arts and Visual Arts

Students demonstrate how they can care for the earth through the reuse and recycling of scraps and materials they find.

Grade Levels Pre K/Kindergarten – Grade 2 (complexity is determined by grade level).

• OVERVIEW - Students will make collages from materials they found in their environs.

• OBJECTIVES - Students will become aware of how works of art can be made from recycled materials and objects.
  Students will identify and demonstrate how to solve the problem of caring for the earth.

• MATERIALS
  • Glue
  • Scissors
  • Objects found such as fabric and sewing implements, food wrappers and containers, leaves, metal bottle caps, etc.

• PROCEDURE - Review ecology related vocabulary words with students prior to beginning the lesson, ex. Environment, recycling, etc. Let the students see all the recycled and found items that you have been accumulating. Students can work in small groups or independently to create collages using a minimum of four to five objects for lower grades to unlimited for older students.
• ASSESSMENT- When collages are completed display them around the classroom or even better around the school. The students can reflect on their work either orally or as a writing assignment.

CORRELATION TO COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Speaking and Listening Standards-Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Pre K/Kindergarten

1. Describe familiar people, places, things and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional details.
2. Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional details.

Grade 1

1. Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.
2. Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation.

Grade 2

1. Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details.
2. Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.
LESSON PLAN #2

CARING FOR THE EARTH AND EACH OTHER. EVERY DAY.

Subjects: Science, Math, Visual Arts and Theater

Students demonstrate how they can care for the earth through the use of their imaginations and role play.

Grade Levels Pre K/Kindergarten – Grade 2 (complexity is determined by grade level).

• OVERVIEW - Students will create puppets inspired by the characters.

• OBJECTIVES - Students will identify and demonstrate how to solve a problem of caring for the earth and/or each other. Students will create an eco puppet friend.

• MATERIALS
  ▪ Eco Boys and Girls Storyboards
  ▪ Chart paper with markers
  ▪ Heavy weight paper cut into shapes, such as circle, square, triangle, heart
  ▪ Markers, colored pencils, crayons
  ▪ Glue, assorted materials for decorating shapes
  ▪ Large Popsicle sticks
  ▪ Masking tape

• PROCEDURE
  ▪ Students are sitting on the floor in a circle in a designated space for group meetings in the classroom.
• The teacher uses the storyboards and asks the names of each Eco Boys and Girls character and what his/her mission is.
• Teacher asks, “What are some ways that show that people do not care for the earth?”
• Teacher writes down the students’ ideas on chart paper.
• Teacher asks, ”How can we solve some of these problems?”
• Teacher tells students that they will create a puppet. They can choose whatever shape they would like. They draw a face on their chosen shape and decorate the puppet.
• After finishing the puppet the students will hold up their puppets and have the puppet tell about a problem with caring for our earth and how they think they will solve it.

• ASSESSMENT - Puppets are displayed in a designated place in the classroom or throughout the school. Have the younger students (Pre-K-1) discuss each others puppets and reflect on their work. Have the older students (2nd grade) write about these reflections.

CORRELATION TO NATIONAL STANDARDS

MID-CONTINENT CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND LEARNING (MCREL)


Grade Levels Pre K/Kindergarten - Grade 2

Benchmark 1. Knows how people affect the environment in negative (e.g., litter, pollution) and positive (e.g., recycling, picking up litter) ways.
Knowledge/skill statements

- Knows that sometimes people harm the environment
- Knows that people harm the environment when they litter
- Knows that people harm the environment when they pollute
- Knows that sometimes people do good things for the environment
- Knows that some things can be recycled
- Knows that picking up litter is one way to reverse negative effects

VISUAL ARTS: 2. ARTISTIC COMMUNICATION EXPRESSION

1. Standard 1. Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes related to the visual arts.

Grade Levels Pre K/Kindergarten - Grade 2

Benchmark 3. Uses a variety of basic art materials (e.g., paints, crayons, clay) to create works of art and express ideas and feelings.

Knowledge/skill statements

- Uses basic art materials to express ideas
- Uses basic art materials to express feelings
- Uses basic art materials to create art

CORRELATION TO COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Math

Pre K/Kindergarten

Counting and Cardinality

1. Count to tell the number of objects; understands the relationship between numbers and quantities, connect counting to cardinality.
Geometry

1. Identify and describe shapes.
2. Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes. Compare simple shapes to form larger shapes. Model shapes in the world by building shapes from components and drawing shapes.

Grade 1

Measurement and Data

1. Measures lengths indirectly and by iterating length units.
2. Classify objects into given categories, count the numbers of objects in each category and sort the categories by count.

Geometry

1. Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as, ABOVE, BELOW, BESIDE, IN FRONT OF, BEHIND and NEXT TO.
2. Identify shapes as two-dimensional (“flat”) or three-dimensional (“solid”).

Analyze, compare, create and compose shapes

1. Model shapes in the world by building shapes from components and drawing shapes.

Grade 2

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

1. Determine whether a group of objects (up to 20) has an odd or even number of members, e.g., by pairing objects or chunking them by 2’s. Write an equation to express an even number as a sum of two equal addends.
Measurement and Data

1. Measure the length of an object by selecting and using appropriate tools such as rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks and measuring tapes.

Geometry

1. Recognize and draw shapes having specified attributes such as given numbers of angles or a given number of equal faces. Identify triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons and cubes.

2. Partition circles and rectangles into two, three, or four equal shares, describe the shares using the words halves, thirds, half of, a third of, etc. and describe the whole as two halves, three thirds, four fourths. Recognize that equal shares of identical wholes need not have the same shape.
LESSON PLAN #3-14

CARING FOR THE EARTH AND EACH OTHER. EVERY DAY.

Subjects: Science, Math, Language Arts and Visual Arts

Students demonstrate how they can care for the earth and each other throughout the entire year.

Grade Levels Pre K/Kindergarten – Grade 2 (complexity is determined by grade level).

• Overview: Students will use recycled materials to create special days all year round.

• Procedure: Each month, January through December, will be the focus of an
  • Ecology project. For example: In January Ray Recycle can give advice on how to recycle material from Christmas and turn it into a work of art. Materials can consist of Christmas wrap, pine from the trees, broken ornaments, etc.

  • In February LuLu Love can give advice on how to make a beautiful card or gift for Valentine’s Day to show care for others.

  • Some other suggestions could be:

#3 January: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

#4 February: Black History Month, Presidents’ Day
#5 March: St. Patrick’s Day, Spring Easter, Passover
#6 April: Earth Day, Easter, Passover
#7 May: Mother’s Day, Memorial Day
#8 June: Father’s Day, Graduation, Beginning of Summer, Flag Day
#9 July: Independence Day, National Parents’ Day
#10 August: Friendship Day
#11 September: Back-to-School, Labor Day, Grandparents’ Day
#12 October: Halloween, Columbus Day
#13 November: Election Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving
#14 December: Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Winter

- Start collecting, saving and thinking about all the wonderful projects you can make which will not only be creative and beautiful BUT helpful in saving our planet.

- As Ernie Earth, LuLu Love, Patsy Peace, Ray Recycle and Sammy Sun promote environmental awareness and interconnectedness so will you!

- And…don’t forget to conserve and protect our natural resources.
Eco Boys and Girls characters ask you to CREATE Acrostic, Word Search and Crossword puzzles to make the earth a
ECO BOYS AND GIRLS®
ACROSTIC POEM

An acrostic poem is one where you choose a word or name and use each letter in the name as the beginning of a word or line that tells something about that person or topic.

E N V I R O N M E N T

E A R T H D A Y

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ERIE EARTH®
ACROSTIC POEM

An acrostic poem is one where you choose a word or name and use each letter in the name as the beginning of a word or line that tells something about that person or topic.

ECOSYSTEM
ERNIE
EARTH
LULU LOVE®
ACROSTIC POEM

An acrostic poem is one where you choose a word or name and use each letter in the name as the beginning of a word or line that tells something about that person or topic.

L U L U L O V E
O V I N G
PATSY PEACE®
ACROSTIC POEM

An acrostic poem is one where you choose a word or name and use each letter in the name as the beginning of a word or line that tells something about that person or topic.

P O L I T E
P A T S Y
P E A C E

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RAY RECYCLE®
ACROSTIC POEM

An acrostic poem is one where you choose a word or name and use each letter in the name as the beginning of a word or line that tells something about that person or topic.

RAY RECYCLE
E
U
S
E
SAMMY SUN®
ACROSTIC POEM

An acrostic poem is one where you choose a word or name and use each letter in the name as the beginning of a word or line that tells something about that person or topic.

S A M M Y S U N
U N G L A S S E S
ECO BOYS AND GIRLS®
WORD SEARCH

Recycle
Love
Sammy
Peace
LuLu
Patsy
Ray
Sun
Earth
ECO BOYS AND GIRLS®
CELEBRATE EARTH CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across:
3. His mission is to spread the word about conservation and protecting natural resources
5. Her mission is to solve conflicts so that humans, animals and things can exist in peaceful ways
6. A day to celebrate our planet

Down:
1. Her mission is to demonstrate loving relationships between humans and all things
2. His mission is to preserve the natural world and its ecosystem
4. His mission is to show people ways to reuse and recycle
Eco Boys and Girls characters asks you to EXPLORE with the KWL Chart different ways to make the earth a better place.
ECO BOYS AND GIRLS®
KWL CHART
K what I know - W what I want to know - L what I learned

Name__________________________  Date____________  Class Period____________

Topic________________________

K

W

L
Eco Boys and Girls characters asks what you would do to **TAKE ACTION** with **We Can Do Writing Exercise** for the planet.
ECO BOYS AND GIRLS®
WE CAN DO Writing Exercise

We can help take care of the earth and each other.

Here’s what we can do:

We can___________________________________
We can___________________________________
We can___________________________________
We can___________________________________
We can___________________________________
We can___________________________________
We can___________________________________
We can___________________________________
We can___________________________________
We can___________________________________

Some helpful words

recycle  energy  reuse  peace  environment  save
conserve  trash  preserve  pollute  litter  Earth Day
compassion  care  protect  reduce  natural resources
“We Love Learning, Exploring and Taking Action with You! Come Back Again!”