

# LET'S TALK ABOUT THE EARTH

In this lesson, students will think about ways in which humans impact the environment. Then they'll read about a kid who has had a positive impact on the environment, as inspiration for some things they can do themselves.

## Grade Levels 3–6

*Note: Lessons are designed to support multiple grade levels. Modification suggestions and extensions are for alternative pacing and to engage students at various levels.*

## Standards

### Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

### Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

SOCIAL AWARENESS  
RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

### Social Studies Standards (NCSS)

People, Places, and Environments  
Individuals, Groups, and Institutions  
Production, Distribution, and Consumption

## Essential Question(s)

- How does spreading kindness affect others?
- How does spreading kindness affect you?

## Learning Objectives

- I can explain how students can spread kindness in their school.
- I can understand how small acts of kindness can make a difference.
- I can think of ways to show kindness in my school, at home, and in my community.

## What You'll Need

"Kid Heroes for the Planet" articles from TIME for Kids; chart paper, pencils, Internet access



## INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

### Introduce It

Put up chart paper around the room. Write one of the following questions on each:

- How do people use and impact Earth's land?
- How do people use and impact Earth's water?
- How do people use and impact Earth's air?
- How do people use and impact Earth's living things?

Have students walk around the room with a pencil and add ideas to the chart paper. While they work, walk around and take note of some overlapping ideas. Bring the class back for a discussion about what they wrote and whether human impact is mostly positive or negative. Then watch the [video from Khan Academy](#) about human impact on the environment.

### Read About It

Assign partners to read about one of the kids in the following articles:

- ["Kid Heroes for the Planet"](#) (April 2023)
- ["Kid Heroes for the Planet"](#) (April 2022)
- ["Kid Heroes for the Planet"](#) (April 2021)

Have partners summarize what the Kid Hero has done, and why. They should be prepared to share with the class.

### Discuss It

Ask students to share their summary with the class. Then have a discussion about what people can do to make a more positive impact on the Earth. Use the questions below to prompt conversation:

- What are some of the biggest issues impacting Earth?
- Who or what plays the biggest role in these issues?
- How can individuals help reduce or reverse the problem?
- What might be some constraints that prevent people from taking action?

### Act on It

Have students walk around and add more ideas to the chart paper, based on what was discussed in the lesson. Then assign or have students stand next to the chart with the part of the environment to which they feel most passionate about making a change. Have groups work together to come up with a way or ways to help reduce human impacts on that area. Invite them to create a school or community project to get others involved in protecting the Earth and its future.