

ENVIRONMENTAL ENCOUNTERS

Lesson Plans for the Science of Water



Persuasive Water Conservation Report

Suggested grade level:

High school English

Objective:

Students will research and report on water issues, writing a persuasive paper to encourage others to conserve water.

Curriculum ties:

- √ Language Arts Grade 9 Standard 2 Objectives 1-2, Grade 10 Standard 3 Objectives 1-3, Grade 11 Standard 2 Objectives 1-2 and Standard 3 Objectives 1-3, Grade 12 Standard 3 Objectives 1-3.

Time needed:

- √ Preparation: 1-3 hours
- √ Pre trip: 2-3 hours
- √ Garden: 1-2 hours
- √ Post trip: 4-6 hours

Materials needed:

- √ Local newspaper articles or articles in national newspapers or magazines dealing with water issues
- √ Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's web site (<http://www.jvwcd.org>) and other reliable water-related web sites, such as:
 - Environmental Protection Agency – WaterSense <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>
 - Environmental Protection Agency – News articles on water <http://www.epa.gov/water/waternews/waternews.html>
 - Slow the Flow – Utah water conservation campaign <http://www.slowtheflow.org/>
 - State of Utah – Water conservation <http://www.conservewater.utah.gov/>
 - Water-wise Utah – Water conservation resources <http://waterwiseutah.org/>
 - Western Waters – Database for water related topics <http://westernwaters.org/>
 - Envision Utah – Water planning in Utah <http://www.envisionutah.org/>
 - Central Utah Water Conservancy District – Conservation information <http://www.cuwcd.com/publicinformation/conservation.htm>
 - American Water Works Association – Water conservation clearinghouse <http://www.awwa.org/Resources/Waterwiser.cfm?navItemNumber=1516>
 - Western States Water Council – Council of western states governors <http://www.westgov.org/wswc/>
 - Utah Water Conservation Forum – Utah conservation professionals <http://utahwaterconservationforum.org/about.htm>

Contact information for local (city, county, and state) water officials can be found in the conservation web sites.



Teacher notes:

In this activity students will research and report on the need for water conservation. Students should know or be instructed on how to do basic research through reading and evaluating articles and web sites and conducting interviews with experts. They should also know the basic format and goals of persuasive writing.

Procedures:

Preparation

Call 801-565-4314 to schedule your interview and visit to the Conservation Garden Park at Jordan Valley.

In the classroom

Each student will research a local water conservation issue using newspaper articles, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District web site and other local official web sites if applicable, and local water officials as resources.

Field trip

Visit the Conservation Garden Park to learn more about water issues in Utah from your Garden guide and investigate the students' research questions. Interviews can be scheduled with one or more of the following people at the Garden:

Courtney Brown, Conservation Programs Manager
Kristofer Sagers, Conservation Analyst
Clifton Smith, Garden Manager
Linda Townes, Communications/PR Specialist
Bart Forsyth, Assistant General Manager

Follow up

Students will write and present a report on what they learned, trying to persuade others to conserve water.

Assessment:

The students' papers will indicate their success at completing this activity.