

Welcome to the Project Outreach homepage! This is your resource for incorporating international issues into the classroom. Roughly each month this site will showcase a different topic or organization. For each topic, I will include a couple worksheets, games or game variations, a project or a craft, and a list of other resources for your own investigation. If you have problems or are unsure how to use a game or hand-out in your classroom, please email me.

Theme

The theme for this month, Environmentalism, was inspired by the recent G8 summit held in Hokkaido. With global warming on the rise, an understanding of the Earth is growing increasingly important. All people, not just students, need to know how the actions of humans affect the environment and what the individual can do to have a positive impact.

Non-Web Resources

Luckily, this topic is an increasingly popular one. This means that many resources exist for you to use. First of all, many of the regular English textbooks that various high schools, and some junior high schools, use include a section on the environment. These sections, even if for the far future, will likely include some valuable vocabulary that you can introduce now.

Another good resource would be films. Many Miyazaki films include a strong green element. You can show clips to students as a springboard for discussion or a speech. If you have access to copies, episodes of English cartoons like Captain Planet. Using an English cartoon or film also has the advantage of serving as an example of culture.

If you don't mind the expense, you may also wish to purchase children's books to read to students. There are a large number of English-language books that address environmental issues.

The Worksheets

The following are .pdf files of worksheets you may wish to use in the classroom. These are mostly appropriate for high school students.

Listening

The Guess/Check worksheets first require students to guess the answers to a list of six questions. Since a large part of successful listening is knowing what to listen for, trying to imagine what an answer may look like should help the students when the teacher reads the short paragraph (~150 words) aloud. The students listen and write down the answers they hear in the second column. Finally, the correct answers are given, which students then copy into the third column. The Guest/Check worksheets can be adapted easily into gap or speech/questions formats.

The Speech Gap worksheet is both easier and more difficult. The difficulty arises from remembering how to spell words. The ease comes from the fact that, save for some missing letters, the students have the speech in front of them. After listening and filling in the gaps, the students then must answer the questions below the speech, which means that this worksheet also tests their reading ability.

Guess/Check: The Red List

Guess/Check: Carbon Footprints

Speech Gap: The Golden Eagle

Pair Work

This Worksheet includes two simple Mad Libs. Before pairing the students up, review what Noun, Verb, and Adjective mean. The students ask their partner for the missing word types and fill in the blanks of their Mad Lib. Then the student reads the completed Mad Lib aloud to their partner.

Mad Libs

Fun

These are just two regular Word Searches. The unused letters of the Animal word search form a secret message and a short list of animals not included in the search. Until I put together a sheet with information on each kind of animal listed, the animals can be found easily using Google.

Word Search: Extinct and Endangered Animals in Japan

Word Search: Fuel and Recycling Vocabulary

Game Variations

Line/Row

This is probably the easiest game to modify. If you play with questions, ask questions about recycling/etc. If you play the categories style (Name a(n) (category, ex. animal) and then students raise their hands, name items within that category, and then sit down by line/row. Note: This is a good way to practice vocabulary) have students name positive behaviors or extinct animals in the world.

Karuta

Make cards that feature extinct/endangered animals or other pertinent vocabulary.

Story/Song Scramble

Type out your favorite song or story with a green message and cut it into strips. Have students try to put the song/story in order after listening to the original. Have groups race to finish first.

Projects

The project for this month is the Fall Project Outreach Challenge. If you have any questions at all about this challenge, please email me. You can decide how much time you wish to commit to this project. Just taking a few minutes before a class to explain it to students and maybe creating a poster to hang up is about the least you can do. You can also work with your JTE to create an activity centered around it or make book/poster creation a project for your classes. Also, if you have students who dislike English, but who enjoy computers or art, try to get them to do a poster. The posters do not have to use full sentences and so are easier than creating picture books.

Ambitious teachers, or those with good relations with their science or computer teachers, may try additional projects. One good idea for showing the importance of balance and habitat is to create a bottle biosphere. I have included numerous links that describe how this might be done. I'd suggest instructing the students on how to build their biosphere in English and then having the science teacher explain the concepts involved in Japanese. Another project would be to get students online and have

them research one of the animals in Japan that is extinct or endangered. Show them the tools they need for searching English websites. Then have them fill out a 5W&H (Who, What, When, Where, Why, How) worksheet on the subject. Or, if you prefer, print out a recent article on an environmental topic and help the students to identify the 5W&H. Then have the students write a short summary of the article, along with their own ideas on the topic. These projects may only work with English clubs or determined and advanced students.