

# Going Green

This lesson focuses on our responsible actions as they relate to our environment. Students will learn about “going green” and will then brainstorm 3 ways they can change their behaviors to be more environmentally responsible.

**Kindness Concept(s)**

Responsibility, Kindness

**Lesson Timeframe**

45 minutes

**Required Materials**

- Basic Art Supplies
- Pack of Index Cards

**Standards Map**

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



**DESIGNATED BY CASEL  
AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM  
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.**  
See last page for details.

**Lesson Objective**

Students will:

- Explain the concept of being green as a method to reducing waste.
- Identify ways children can be responsible for the environment through personal actions.

**Teacher Connection/Self-Care**

Every person on earth has a personal carbon footprint that they leave as they experience the world. You are responsible for your effect on the environment. The best way to truly accept this is to evaluate this effect. How much water do you use each day? Are you conscious about the electricity usage in your home? Are you part of a recycling or composting program? Most of us are aware of these simple ways to lighten our impact. However, this week's challenge is to identify unique ways to decrease your carbon footprint at school. Are there ways to reduce your waste? How does your school handle recycling? Your kind actions set a terrific example for the students in your class!

**Tips for Diverse Learners**

- Allow students to create only one Environmentally Responsible Card.
- Allow students to draw their ideas onto their cards.
- Work with students one-on-one to help them brainstorm personal ideas for going green if needed.



## Share

5 minutes

*We have worked very hard to become responsible citizens of our classroom, school, and community! Let's review how we have shown responsibility so far this month:*

- *How have you used self-discipline and responsibility to complete your homework and turn it in on time?*
- *What is one responsible choice you made yesterday on the playground? At specials?*
- *What is one way you were able to use self-discipline to wait for something when you really wanted it?*
- *How were you able to be responsible for our school last week?*

*All of these choices are ways we can respond with kindness towards ourselves, others, and our environment!*



## Inspire

### **Environmental Responsibility**

10-12 minutes

*We have talked about responsibility and our choices. Our choices affect ourselves, others, and even the world around us! That's right; the choices we make can help or hurt our environment. What is the environment? Explain that it is the world around us: nature, animals, plants, water, etc.*

### **Read Aloud: *Miss Fox's Class Goes Green* by Eileen Spinelli**

YouTube Link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-UNKPdwpTg>

*This story shows how our choices affect the environment and how we can choose responsibly to make a difference.*

- *What 3 ideas did Miss Fox list as ways to go green?*
- *Name 3 different ways the children were able to go green?*



## Empower

20 minutes

*The class in our story worked together to go green and make responsible choices to clean up our environment, use less energy, and conserve energy. Now it's our turn! Let's review the 3 ideas Miss Fox listed:*

- Use less stuff (recycle)
- Use less energy
- Use less water

*Your challenge today is to come up with one way you can accomplish each of these goals to help our environment. You will receive three index cards. On*

the blank side, write one of the three goals on each card. On the other side of each card, brainstorm one way you can accomplish that goal.

- Example: Use less stuff- (recycle) “I will fill up my water bottle everyday before school instead of grabbing a new one from home.”
- Allow 10-15 minutes for students to write/draw their 3 cards.
- Encourage students to decorate their cards if time allows.



## Reflect

5 minutes

Reconvene at the end of the lesson and ask for volunteers to share one of their environmentally responsible ideas.

- *How will you accomplish this goal?*
- *What difficulties might you encounter as you try to go green? (temptation, laziness, no green options, etc.)*

*Every person has a responsibility to our environment, even young people like you! You can choose to help clean your neighborhood, close the door to conserve heat, or even decrease your water usage by taking shorter showers. Every responsible and kind choice helps protect our environment and keeps our world just a little bit cleaner than it was before!*



## Extension Ideas

- As a class, brainstorm ideas to help your school go green. One idea might be to start (or increase!) a recycling program. Start simple and work your way and invite other classes to join you.
- Create a “Mr/Mrs \_\_\_\_\_’s Class is Going Green!” bulletin board and tack up each environmentally responsible card to the board as students share their successes.
- Start a “Go Green” index card box for students to check out each Friday to try a new “Go Green” idea at home over the weekend!
- At-Home Extension: Send home 3 blank cards and invite families to complete this activity using their home and neighborhood as the focus for their green choices!

RAK Notebook Prompt (See RAK Notebook Project in the Respect unit for more details):

- Color the page light blue using crayons or colored pencils, like water.
- In the middle of your water, use a marker to write one way your family can conserve water this week!



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LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs.

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>