

# (36) Conservation

Podcast Length: 15:49

Character Value: Conserving environmental resources

Health Message: Environment & fitness

## Synopsis

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In today's Walking Classroom podcast, we learn about how humans are depleting our Earth's natural resources through wasteful actions and how our lifestyle is causing problems like global warming and deforestation. Mrs. Fenn helps explain how we can all make more responsible choices and develop good habits that will help keep the earth healthy now and in the future.

## Standards Met

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See online matrices.

## Objectives

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Students will:

- understand some of the causes of current environment problems.
- consider how individuals can either help or harm conservation efforts.
- identify ways that they can reduce their ecological footprint.

## Procedure

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If you want to compare student comprehension before and after listening, administer the Comprehension Quiz before doing anything related to the podcast. Retest after walking.

1. Review key vocabulary. (Included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast.)
  - **sustainable (adj):** Able to be maintained at a certain level  
**Natural resources will not be sustainable if we continue being wasteful.**
  - **conservation (noun):** Prevention of wasteful use of a resource; protection or preservation of the natural environment  
**Our conservation efforts reduced the amount of water being wasted each day.**
  - **environmental resources (noun):** Anything that living things need that can be taken from the land, water, air, or natural environment  
**Clean drinking water is one of our most precious environmental resources.**
2. Build background by asking students, "Have you ever heard of leaving an ecological footprint? What do you think that means?"

(allow time for discussion)
3. Podcast preview: "Today we're going to learn more about the impact we have on our environment and ways that we can conserve precious natural resources. Ready? Let's go!"
4. Walk!

## Questions for Thought and Discussion

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Upon return to the classroom, discuss the main ideas and content from the podcast using the questions and suggested answers below.

### 1. What were some of the big ideas of this podcast?

- ✓ *Humans are depleting our Earth's natural resources through their wasteful actions.*
- ✓ *Our lifestyle is causing problems like global warming and deforestation.*
- ✓ *We can make responsible choices and develop good habits that help conserve those resources and reduce our ecological footprint.*

### 2. Your ecological footprint is how much of the planet it takes to support your lifestyle.

#### a) How does your ecological footprint relate to the Earth suffering from so many environmental problems?

- ✓ *Your ecological footprint is how much of the planet it takes to support your lifestyle. The more resources you use, the more our Earth suffers.*

#### b) How does America's ecological footprint compare to other countries?

- ✓ *America's ecological footprint is much larger; about 2x more than most European countries. We drive our cars more, leave electronics plugged in, etc.*

### 3. It is important for humans to make responsible choices and conserve our natural resources.

#### a) Why is it so important for us to start conserving our natural resources?

- ✓ *Suggestion: We only have one planet to live on and its resources are limited. Our everyday actions and habits are putting huge demands on the earth.*

#### b) What do you think will happen to the environment if humans keep up their current lifestyle?

- ✓ *Suggestion: Our planet will become even more depleted and destroyed.*

#### c) What can we do to reduce our ecological footprint?

- ✓ *Suggestions: Walk instead of driving, unplug electronics when they are not being used, turn off lights and TVs when you leave the room, recycle, carpool, take short showers, etc.*

## Comprehension Quiz

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Administer comprehension quiz.

### COMPREHENSION QUIZ ANSWER KEY

1. b    2. b    3. c    4. a    5. a    6. b    7. a    8. c    9. b    10. a

For information on related websites, resources, and activities, visit our website:

<http://www.thewalkingclassroom.org/adopter-resources/>

# Conservation Comprehension Quiz

Name:

Date:

1. Your ecological footprint is
  - a. the imprint you leave in the earth when you take a step.
  - b. how much of the planet it takes to support your lifestyle.
  - c. the amount of energy you are saving.
  
2. Why is it important to conserve our environmental resources?
  - a. Environmental resources are worth a lot of money.
  - b. We only have one planet to live on and its resources are limited.
  - c. Overusing natural resources is against the law.
  
3. If we continue to keep our current lifestyle, what will happen to the earth?
  - a. We will be able to live full and happy lives, much the way we are now.
  - b. We will use fewer natural resources and the earth will slowly mend itself.
  - c. Our planet will become even more depleted and destroyed.
  
4. Greenhouse gases:
  - a. affect global warming negatively
  - b. help plants grow
  - c. make the planet cooler
  
5. What would be the best way to describe the current ecological footprint of humans on our Earth?
  - a. unsustainable
  - b. natural
  - c. unchangeable
  
6. Which of the following is an OPINION about our Earth's ecological systems?
  - a. We need rainforests to support diverse ecosystems and produce oxygen.
  - b. Humans have a moderate impact on our Earth that can be easily sustained.
  - c. Even a small increase in the earth's temperature can have a big impact.
  
7. What are some of the ways that our natural resources are being damaged?
  - a. Landfills can leak chemicals into our soil and pollute our drinking water.
  - b. Rainforests are supporting thousands of species and providing oxygen to the planet.
  - c. Recycling conserves resources and reduces landfill garbage.
  
8. Why is it important for individuals to try and conserve resources?
  - a. No one person can make enough difference to save our planet.
  - b. Although our resources are almost unlimited, we want to be cautious.
  - c. Our everyday actions and habits are putting huge demands on the earth.
  
9. Driving instead of walking saves time and helps you get more exercise.
  - a. true
  - b. false
  
10. Trees help produce oxygen that we need to take in to help us breathe.
  - a. true
  - b. false