

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN FOR Taking the Pledge



PURPOSE:

To provide students with an awareness of the need for a healthy environment and encourage students to take responsibility by selecting three local actions as their pledge to the environment.

OUTCOMES:

Students will apply content knowledge and use their communication and decision making skills to discuss ways to incorporate Environmentality™ into their daily lives.

STANDARDS:

Various standards from the California Content Standards for English-Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

DAY 1

- Conduct a discussion about the need for a healthy environment and ways to help the environment, both at home and at school.
- Discuss the importance of a commitment or pledge.
- Distribute a Jiminy Cricket Environmentality™ Challenge Pledge form to each student and explain the home work assignment.

Homework Assignment

- Ask students to share the pledge sheet with their families and discuss three ways they will commit to think and act responsibly with the environment. Ask them to record their actions on the pledge form and return the sheet to class the next day.

DAY 2

- Ask students to write their pledges on sentence strips (one pledge activity per strip).
- Ask students to post and share their pledge with the entire class.
- As a class discussion, decide how to categorize the sentence strips. Have students clump the strips based on the criteria. Tally the number of pledges in each category.
- Ask students to make a bar graph to represent the class's pledges. Discuss what the graph indicates: what is the most common pledge? The least common? Are any pledges dependent on other pledges? What would be the impact of what the whole class has committed to do?
- Remind students to implement their pledges for one week.

one week later...

- Ask students to review their individual pledge form. Which ones did they complete? What was the impact of their completion (e.g., how much was saved in recycling?) Which one(s) are they still working on? What do they need to complete this part of their pledge?
- Have students share their completed pledges. What was the impact of the entire class of their completion?
- Reinforce the students' progress and give each student who has kept his/her pledge the provided gift in recognition of his/her success in honoring a pledge commitment. REMIND STUDENTS THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE THE PLEDGE BEYOND THE ASSIGNMENT.

Share the Learning

- Have students decide how best to share their learning. Examples: make a school bulletin board; write an article for the school newsletter; write a letter to a local government representative about what they did to help the environment; tell their family.

Take the Next Step

- Conduct a brainstorming session with your students to discuss environmental actions they can do for their Jiminy Cricket's Environmentality™ Challenge Class Project (see Part II of the JCEC Handbook: The Project Planner).