

# Environmentally Responsible Charades

This lesson focuses on our responsible actions towards the environment through a charades game.

## Kindness Concept(s)

Concept, Concept, Concept

## Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

## Required Materials

- Basic Art Supplies
- Blank paper
- Scenario 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.



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AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM  
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.  
See last page for details.

## Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Identify ways children can be responsible for the environment through personal actions.
- Explore ways to be responsible using charades.

## 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 of 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

- Use scenario cards to help them understand each responsible scenario.
- Have advanced students create scenarios on their own to act out with a partner.
- Be part of the group during charades if a team is unable to act out the scene independently.



## Share

5 minutes

Draw a venn diagram on the whiteboard and go over the similarities and differences between teacher responsibilities and student responsibilities:

- Same: arrive on time, be prepared, eat healthy, keep classroom clean, use kind words, show respect, care for others, etc.
- Different: complete schoolwork, grade papers, go to meetings, go to specials, etc.

Even though we have some differences in our responsibilities, we all must work together to create a kind and happy classroom!



## 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: *10 Things I Can Do To Help My World* by Melanie Walsh**

5 minutes

YouTube Link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTN6T74W4L8>

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

- What are 3 examples from the story that you also do to help our environment?
- How can you help our school with your responsible choices?
- What is the hardest thing they talked about in the book?



## Empower

20 minutes

Students will practice making responsible choices for the environment by playing charades. Depending on the level of your class/students, you can provide them with the phrases below written on a piece of paper OR use the scenario cards at the end of the lesson. Divide the class in half and have students on each team pair up to act out their given scenario. Each correctly identified scenario receives a point. Use the talking points to expand on the responsibility connected to each scenario.

- 1) Feeding an animal.
  - Pets rely on us to keep them fed, clean, and healthy.
- 2) Picking up trash.

- If every person refused to pick up even just one piece of trash, our school would be covered in garbage!
- 3) Turning off the water when brushing your teeth.
    - You can save over 10 gallons of water by turning it off.
  - 4) Closing the door.
    - When you leave the door open, heat leaves and your furnace has to work harder to keep your house warm.
  - 5) Planting a tree.
    - Trees give us oxygen. If you plant a tree, you are giving others a chance for nice, clean air!
  - 6) Riding the bus.
    - When we use public transportation we use fewer cars overall. Less cars means less pollution and happier trees and animals!



## Reflect

5 minutes

Have each student draw a picture of one way they can take responsibility for something in their environment/world. How can you help?

*Every person has a responsibility to our environment, even young people like you! You can choose to help animals when they are in need, close the door to conserve heat, or even keep our playground clean when you see trash strewn about. 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, investigate one way to make a difference in water conservation at school. Starting a plan to teach others about how much water is wasted when brushing our teeth, washing our hands, etc. is a great way to help others cut down on their usage.
- Invite students to repeat this activity with their family at home! They can measure how much water they conserve there and then report back to the class. If desired, they could graph the difference between home and school.



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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/>



### Feeding an Animal

Pets rely on us to keep them fed, clean, and healthy.



### Picking Up Trash

If every person refused to pick up even just one piece of trash, our school would be covered in garbage!  
Third line.



### Turning off the water when brushing your teeth

You can save over 10 gallons of water by turning it off!



### Closing the Door

When you leave the door open, heat leaves and your furnace has to work harder to keep your house warm.



### Planting a Tree

Trees give us oxygen. If you plant a tree, you are giving others a chance for nice, clean air!



### Riding the Bus

When we use public transportation we use fewer cars overall. Fewer cars means less pollution and happier trees and animals.